



Executive Report of the CETAF 44 General Meeting 14-15 November 2018, Bratislava, Slovakia

Michelle J. Price (CETAF Chair)

Approved by the CETAF Executive Committee

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Aims of the CETAF42 General Meeting: Approval of the records from CETAF 43 and the CETAF Budget for 2019; Presentation of the outcomes of the CETAF Joint Research Agenda workshop; Presentation of a CETAF position paper on Horizon Europe; Hold a CETAF workshop on taxonomy on the CETAF vision for taxonomy and systematics research in 2030.

General information: 52 attendees from 29 of 33 CETAF members (59 institutions), and 1 guest, Jane Smith the Vice-Chair of BHL, attended the CETAF 44 meeting. CETAF 44 was hosted by the Institute of Botany, Plant Science and Biodiversity Centre of the Slovakia Academy of Sciences (Director: Anna Bérešová, CETAF Representative: Karol Marhold).

CETAF Activities

- CETAF (represented by Ana Casino & Michelle Price) was invited to attend the 2nd Global Biodiversity Information Conference (GBIC2) in Copenhagen Denmark on the 24-27 July 2018 and to co-ordinate one of four workshops. The aim of the conference was to explore the establishment of a global Biodiversity Information Network see: <https://www.biodiversityinformatics.org/>. An article on the outcomes of the conference is to be published and GBIF will launch a call for participation (see: <https://www.biodiversityinformatics.org/en/shared-ambitions/>).

- CETAF is co-organizing the Biodiversity_Next conference on 21-25 October 2019 in Leiden (with DiSSCo, TDWG, iDIGBIO, GBIF), hosted by NL-BIF and Naturalis Biodiversity Center (<https://biodiversitynext.org/>). CETAF members and especially CETAF working group coordinators were encouraged to submit proposals for symposia / workshops for the 30th November deadline.

CETAF 44 Meeting decisions: **1)** The CETAF Executive proposals for the Agenda for CETAF44; **2)** the records of CETAF 43 (NHM London); **3)** the CETAF Budget for 2019; **4)** the CETAF membership fees 2020-2023; and, **5)** the proposal for the human resources of the CETAF Secretariat.

CETAF actions: **1)** CETAF will join the Convention on Biological Diversity Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP); **2)** CETAF will become a member of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS); **3)** CETAF, BHL and the EBHL will collaborate on gap-filling in digital literature in BHL; **4)** the CETAF 46 Governing Board meeting will be a full-day meeting to be held on Monday 21 October 2019 in Leiden.

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CETAF statements and outcomes: **1)** Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of Genetic Resources; **2)** CETAF and DiSSCo - an unprecedented opportunity for natural science collections; **3)** Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities e-publishing guidelines : Recommendations regarding authorship citation and Open Access; **4)** CETAF Joint Research Agenda Workshop from CETAF 43 – Executive Committee Summary Report.

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CETAF contributions to the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) Forum: CETAF was invited to take part in the GTI Forum, 16th November, in Egypt before the Conference of the Parties 14 meeting. The following items were presented: **1)** an invited talk on *CETAF and the importance of collections – a collaborative project* that was given by Hendrick Segers (RBINS); **2)** the [Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities \(CETAF\) Bratislava Declaration on the 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#); and **3)** the Joint statement from the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) - [Taxonomy in the post-2020 Framework for Biodiversity: underpinning the 2050 Vision for Living in Harmony with Nature](#).

CETAF Chair and Executive Committee Elections: The nomination period for the CETAF Chair and Executive Committee runs from 25 April - 31 December 2018. Nominations for candidates for positions on the CETAF Executive Committee (with their prior consent) should be sent to CETAF EC Secretary, Jesús Muñoz: jmunoz@rjb.csic.es. Please include the name of the candidate(s) and the position(s) for which they have been nominated in your email. The list of candidates will be circulated in January 2018.

CETAF working groups – mid-term updates

Biodiversity Monitoring Group (Livia Schäffler, ZFMK Bonn). The group has been preparing the foundations for the development of a programme within CETAF. It has compiled a list of relevant agencies, initiatives and projects on an international scale, and called on members to contribute information on a national level. The group is working towards submitting a COST Action and to contribute to DiSSCo Prepare under scientific readiness. The group is also looking to create CiBiMon (Citizen-science support for innovative biodiversity monitoring in Europe). Interested persons / institutions are requested to email the group leaders. Contact: W.Waegle@zfmk.de, and L.Schaeffler@leibniz-zfmk.de.

Digitization Group (Elspeth Haston, RBG Edinburgh). The group has been working on developing standardized definitions of «Digitisation» and has been coordinating across projects (e.g. ICEDIG, Mobilise, Synthesys+ and DiSSCo) in order to do this. The group will shortly publish its findings with the aim that this will form a reference for specimen digitisation activities. Contact: E.Haston@rbge.ac.uk.

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Earth Sciences Group (Jiří Kvaček, NHM Prague & Laura Tilley, NHM Stuttgart). The group has submitted its publication on Hazard and Disaster Events to the Journal of Research Ideas and Outcomes, and has created a virtual exhibition from the results of their survey on geohazards. Contributions from CETAF members are sought on the protection of cultural goods and members were requested to complete the survey of types/published specimens databased, online availability in Earth Science collections. Contact: johanna.eder@smns-bw.de.

European Advisory Group (Vanessa Demanoff, MNHN, Paris) & Carole Paleco, RBINS, Brussels). The new funding programme Horizon Europe is currently under development (2021-2027). It proposes the following: Pillar 1: Fundamental Science Programme / Pillar 2: Global challenges, and Pillar 3: Open innovation with a mission based approach. The group met with the Commission on the 31 July and discussed having a biodiversity specific mission integrated into the framework. The group will undertake the development of a CETAF mission proposal on biodiversity and has requested that CETAF members communicate examples of the roles that collections, research, or conservation activities have had in halting biodiversity loss to the group. Contact: vanessa.demanoff@mnhn.fr and cpaleco@naturalsciences.be.

e-Publishing Group (Isabelle Gérard, RMCA Tervuren). The group has identified 5 topics: 1) An inventory of all institutional journals published in CETAF institutions and how they contribute to taxonomic descriptions (see <https://cetaf.org/taxonomy/publications>); 2) impact of e-publishing on the exchange programmes within our institutions; 3) existing identifiers and how they relate to publications; 4) development of a publishing platform in which all journals from our institutions could find expertise and tools to publish under a diamond open access and disseminate widely their data into relevant databases; and 5) categorise taxonomy in Clarivate analytics tools. The group called for CETAF delegates to communicate on the group and its activities in their home institutions with the aim of encouraging new membership from persons involved in publishing or from libraries. Contact: laurence.benichou@mnhn.fr and isabelle.gerard@africamuseum.be.

Legislation and regulations Group (Ole Seberg, NHM Copenhagen). The group has been working on the resubmission of the CETAF Code of Conduct to the European Commission (see: <https://cetaf.org/services/natural-science-collections-and-access-and-benefit-sharing>). The group is also planning further CETAF training for ABS representatives with training activities also planned under Synthesys+. The group will provide information to CETAF members once the Sectorial Guidance documents are published and it aims to work on



developing increased communication among CETAF ABS representatives. Contact: dirk.neumann@zsm.mwn.de and c.lyal@nhm.ac.uk.

CETAF initiatives updating

- *Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST)* (Catharina Voreadou, NHM Crete) – see presentation 9.2. CETAF44 PRESENTATION OF DEST.pptx.
- *European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT)* (Laurence Bénichou, MNHN Paris) – see presentation 9.3 EJT update XML.pptx.

CETAF projects and project involvement

- *BIOTALENT* (Gergely Babocsay HNHM, Budapest) – see presentation: 9.8_BIOTALENT_CETAF_14Nov2018_HNHM.pptx.
- *DiSSCo* (Ana Casino, CETAF Secretariat) *and DiSSCo Prepare* (Wouter Addink, Naturalis, Leiden) – see presentations 9.1_CETAF44-DiSSCo.pptx and 9.1.1 DiSSCO PPP presentation CETAF meeting.pptx.
- *ENVRI-FAIR* (Ana Casino, CETAF Secretariat) – see presentation: 9.5_CETAF44-ENVRI-FAIR.pptx.
- *ICEDIG* (Leif Schulman, LUOMOS, Finland) – see presentation: 9.6_ICEDIG 2018 Progress and Goals_Leif Schulman_CETAF44.pdf
- *MOBILISE* (Ana Casino, CETAF Secretariat) – see presentation: 9.7_CETAF44-MOBILISE.pptx.
- *Synthesys+* (Vince Smith, NHM London) – see presentation: 9.4_CETAF44-SYNTHSESYS+ update.pptx.

News from CETAF strategic partners

Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) (Jane Smith, NHM London), is finalizing the transfer of content files from BHL Europe for integration into BHL. Full text searching was made available in May of 2018 and BHL is currently working on a new transcription tool to facilitate the incorporation / interpretation of journals and notebooks. Discussions at recent meetings (CETAF 43 in London and the joint CBHL/EBHL/ Linnaean meeting, New York) led to the development of collaboration between BHL, CETAF and the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries association (EBHL) that will be focused on increasing content in BHL, gap-filling and extending European languages coverage.

New projects seeking collaboration with CETAF members

COST - ERBFacility (Rene Dekker, Naturalis, Leiden) this project, the European Raptor Biomonitoring Facility – www.erbfacility.eu, is a networking activity that aims to address questions related to environmental contaminants (enhanced effectiveness of chemicals regulations and conventions; more reliable risk assessment of compounds; early warning of

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emerging contaminant problems). CETAF delegates were requested to get involved with the project and ensure that bird, mammal or vertebrate curators from member institutions were in contact with the project leader, Paola Movalli – paola.movalli@naturalis.nl.

LIFE APEX (Rene Dekker, Naturalis, Leiden), this project focuses on the systematic use of contaminant data from apex predators and their prey in chemicals management (Sep. 2018 – Aug. 2022). The project seeks 'Replication and Transfer Partners' that will share, through a central database, information on and availability of stored (frozen) raptor, owl and mammalian predator specimens; make samples (tissue) available from these specimens for contaminant analysis and apply LIFE APEX Quality Assurance approaches for collection and storage of specimens for contaminant work. Interested bird, mammal or vertebrate curators were requested to get in contact with the Naturalis LIFE APEX Project Manager - René Dekker – rene.dekker@naturalis.nl.

LinBi: Linking Biodiversity and Culture Information (Patricia Mergen, RMCA, Tervuren) is a project funded in a CEF Telecom EUROPEANA 2018 call (<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding/2018-europeana>) that runs from Jan. 2019 – June 2020. As a follow-up of OpenUp! (Opening up Natural History Heritage for EUROPEANA), <http://open-up.eu/en>, LinBi will add to the existing OpenUp! Natural History Aggregator for Europeana a new enrichment component. As part of this funding programme, biodiversity components can be linked to other cultural heritage information, enhancing visibility and data re-use. The CEF 2019 call may be an opportunity for CETAF members. Interested parties were asked to contact Gerda Koch – kochg@ait.co.at.

CETAF workshop outcomes

See: [CETAF Joint Research Agenda Workshop from CETAF 43 – Executive Committee Summary Report](#) and presentation 10_CETAF 44-report_Outcomes of the CETAF Workshop on a Joint Research Agenda.pdf

Future CETAF actions

- CETAF Position Paper on Horizon Europe (European Initiatives Advisory Group)
- CETAF Position paper on Natural History Collections (CETAF EC and Strategy Group)
- CETAF Position paper on Taxonomy (CETAF EC and CETAF Strategy Group)
- CETAF statement – Vision for taxonomy (CETAF EC and CETAF Strategy Group)

CETAF workshop on taxonomy in Europe

As part of the development of the CETAF Joint Research Agenda, science and scientific research will be put into the forefront of our reflections, linked with our collections and our



taxonomic expertise. The aim of this workshop was to reflect on taxonomy within CETAF institutions so that it can be fully integrated into the CETAF joint research agenda.

The following questions were posed and answered during the workshop. *1. What are the issues / challenges for taxonomy both now and in the next 10 years? What are the opportunities for taxonomy both now and in the next 10 years?* Convenor: Wolfgang Wägele (Bonn).

2. What is the role of taxonomy in society? How can the importance of taxonomy be promoted within society? Convenor: Patrik Mráz (Prague).

3. What are the scientific directions we should take in taxonomy? What scientific questions should we be answering? Convenor: Gergely Babocsay (Budapest).

4. What actions or initiatives do we already have that promote and support taxonomy? What actions or initiatives would we like to have to promote and support taxonomy in the future? Convenor: Leif Schulman (Helsinki).

Goal: working towards creating A CETAF vision for taxonomy and systematics research in 2030!

Upcoming CETAF Governing Board meeting venues

CETAF45: Tartu, Estonia, 15-16 May 2019

CETAF46: Leiden, Netherlands, 21 October 2019 (during Biodiversity Next)

CETAF47: Tervuren, Belgium, Spring 2020

CETAF48: Paris, France, Autumn 2020

CETAF49: Frankfurt, Germany, Spring 2021

CETAF50: Israel, Autumn 2021

CETAF51: call open for proposals.

Upcoming meetings of interest

The Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland will host the joint SPNHC and ICOM meeting will be held in Edinburgh on the 7-13 June 2020 (see <http://www.spnhc-icomnathist2020.com/>)

Meeting presentations and outcomes

All presentations given and reports or documents presented at CETAF44 are available in the CETAF member space (see the *CETAF44-All Presentations.zip* file) in the CETAF website (<http://cetaf.org/>) in the folder "CETAF44 - Nov18 (Bratislava)", or via the link: <https://cetaf.org/filedepot/cetaf44-nov18-bratislava> (please login first).

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