



## Minutes

*Exploring and documenting diversity in nature*

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CETAF A.I.S.B.L  
**CETAF 35 General Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> May 2014**  
The Munch Museum, Oslo, Norway

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*Host*

**UiO:Natural History Museum**



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*Notes:* Course of the meeting according to the approved Agenda

*Annexes:*

- Agenda for CETAF 35
- Annexes to the Minutes (numbered 1 to 18)

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*Authors*

Ana Casino (General Secretary), Bárbara Herrero (International Relations), Silvia Pallarés (Science Communication), Michelle Price (Chair of CETAF)

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**PARTICIPANTS (in alphabetical order):** Luca BARTOLOZZI (Natural History Museum, Florence), Laurence BÉNICHOU (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), Walter BERENDSOHN (Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum, Dahlem-Berlin), Björn BERNING (Upper Austria State Museums - Biology Centre, Linz), Arne BJØRLYKKE (Natural History Museum, University of Oslo), Wiesław BOGDANOWICZ (Museum and Institute for Zoology-PAN, Warsaw), Thierry BOURGOIN (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), Angelika BRANDT (NORe Consortium, Hamburg); Rogier de KOK (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), Vanessa DEMANOFF (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), Johanna EDER (Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History), Per ERICSON (Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm), Jiří FRANK (National Museum of Natural History, Prague), Mario GARCÍA-PARIS (National Museum of Natural Sciences-CSIC, Madrid), Patrick GROOTAERT (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels), Anton GÜNTSCH (Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum Dahlem-Berlin), Michel GUIRAUD (National Museum of Natural History, Paris), David HARRIS (Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh), Christoph HÄUSER (Natural History Museum, Berlin), Rob HUXLEY (Natural History Museum, London), Jiří KVAČEK (National Museum of Natural History, Prague), Chris LYAL (Natural History Museum, London), Jean MARIAUX (Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva), Koen MARTENS (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels), Fridtjof MEHLUM (Natural History Museum, University of Oslo), Patricia MERGEN (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren), Santiago MERINO (National Museum of Natural Sciences-CSIC, Madrid), Eva-Maria NATZER (Bavarian Natural History Collections, Munich), Bengt OXELMAN (Göteborg Natural History Museum), Beáta PAPP (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest), Maria Luz PEÑACOBÁ (National Museum of Natural Sciences-CSIC, Madrid), Stephanie PIETSCH (Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn), Kadri PÕLDMAA (Estonian Academy of Sciences, Tallinn), Michelle PRICE (Conservatory and Botanical Gardens of the City of Geneva), Christiane QUAISSER (Natural History Museum, Berlin), Nikolaj SCHARFF (Natural History Museum of Denmark), Leif SCHULMAN (Finnish Museum of Natural History-LUOMUS), Erik SMETS (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden), Steven DESSEIN (Botanic Garden Meise), Isabella VAN DE VELDE (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels), Ernst VITEK (Natural History Museum Vienna), Catherina VOREADOU (Natural History Museum of Crete).

From the General Secretariat: Ana CASINO, Bárbara HERRERO, Silvia PALLARÉS.

Invited Speakers: Donald HOBERN (GBIF General Director) and Peter SCHALK (GBIF Governing Board Chair).

Observers: Boyko GEORGIEV (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences).

## WELCOME TO ATTENDANTS

Arne Bjørlykke (Director of Natural History Museum, University of Oslo), gave a welcome address to the CETAF General Meeting on behalf of the host institution.

## OPENING OF THE CETAF35 GENERAL MEETING

Welcome by Michelle J. Price - Chair of CETAF - with an overview of the aims, expected results and new additions to the meeting structure of the CETAF 35 General Meeting (as outlined in the introduction to the CETAF35 Agenda). Arne Bjørlykke was thanked for hosting the General Meeting and the Munch Museum was thanked for providing the venue for the meeting.

The CETAF 35 meeting was officially opened by Michelle J. Price, Chair of CETAF, at 13h15.

1. **Approval of the Agenda CETAF 35.** The slightly amended Agenda was voted on and approved (**Annex 1**).
2. **Approval of the records of the previous meeting.** The minutes from the CETAF34 meeting, held on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, UK, were distributed to the CETAF membership on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with the associated Annexes (1-12) are available via CETAF website. The CETAF34 minutes (**Annex 2**) (together with the associated Annexes) were voted on and approved.
3. **Report from the Chair and Executive Committee** (September 2013 – April 2014). This Report, detailing the activities of the Chair and EC during the six month reporting period was circulated to CETAF members on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It was voted on and approved (**Annex 3**).

The electronic archives of the CETAF meeting minutes are being checked/complied by Michelle Price, in collaboration with previous CETAF members and Chairs, and they will be made available, via the member login on the CETAF website.

4. **Financial report 2013.** The **Annual Financial Report 2013** (Agenda point 4.a – **Annex 4.a**) was based on the document projected during the meeting and explained by Ana Casino-CETAF General Secretary (GS). The **Auditors Report** (Agenda point 4.b – **Annex 4.b**) was presented by Erik Smets (Naturalis Biodiversity Center -Leiden) who explained that the Auditors (Olof Biström, FNHM, Helsinki, and himself) had no comments to the Annual Report 2013.

Following a question by Michel Guiraud (MNHN, Paris) on the Budget for 2014, the GS explained that the Annual Accounts include the Annual Report 2013, but also, the Budget 2014 (that was approved during the CETAF34 meeting in September of 2013)

and the Balance of Incomes and Expenses, among other general documents, that need to be submitted to the Belgian Authorities.

The CETAF Annual Financial Report for 2013 was voted on and approved.

Additionally, the GS presented the **1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report 2014** (Agenda point 4.c-**Annex 4.c**) and indicated that only 12% of the Incomes and Expenses were achieved during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2014, mainly due to the fact that most of the expected payments for the website will take place in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters.

5. **Discharge of Executive Committee for 2013.** Patrick Grootaert (RBINS, Brussels) proposed that the General Meeting discharge the CETAF executive committee of its duties for the reporting period. This was submitted to the floor for voting and approved.
6. **Presentation of the CETAF Guidelines for the formation and functioning of Working groups:** Maria Luz Peñacoba presented the outline of the CETAF's General guidelines on the formation and functioning of CETAF working groups (**Annex 5**), indicating that they should have a clear mission statement and structure as well as a clear work programme.

Michelle Price presented the outline of **Financial Guidelines for the working groups (Annex 6)**. This document outlines the proposed procedures for the application for financial support by the working groups, the evaluation of requests as well as giving some indications of what types of activities can be supported by the small CETAF fund that has been set-aside for this purpose (currently 5000 Euro p.a.). The aim of these guidelines is to facilitate the application procedure and the evaluation process so that decisions can be made more efficiently in the future.

Michelle Price asked for written contributions on the proposed texts for both of the guidelines to be sent to the General Secretary by the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Christiane Quaisser (NHM, Berlin) indicated that any guidelines that were too administrative or restrictive could be counter-productive as working-groups depend on the in-kind contributions from motivated persons. Too many demands and restrictions will not necessarily facilitate the functioning of such groups.

Michelle Price indicated that the work on the proposed guidelines has highlighted the need to clarify the terminology concerning the different entities that exist within CETAF in accordance with the CETAF Statutes. The CETAF EC will work on this issue in advance of the CETAF36 meeting in Vienna in October of 2014.

7. **Report of the General Secretariat**, presented by Ana Casino (GS), following the text that had been sent to the CETAF members on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014. It was voted on and approved (**Annex 7.a**).

The GS highlighted the efforts that have been made to raise the profile of CETAF, to connect with the EC Commission and to integrate CETAF into European projects and initiatives as well as to ensure the smooth functioning of the CETAF Secretariat and CETAF administrative tasks. The report was followed by a presentation of the new Secretariat staff: Bárbara Herrero and Silvia Pallarés who are in charge of International Relations and Science Communication, respectively.

They gave a presentation of the new CETAF website (**Annex 7.b**). The New website is currently in testing mode for a month to enable the CETAF members to go through it and give their feedback on it to the GS by the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The contents reflect the information contained within the 9 Passports that have been contributed by Members to date. The CETAF membership was encouraged to contribute to the development of the site with their Passports. The CETAF Passport document should be sent to GS by the 20<sup>th</sup> June.

## 8. Brief reporting of on-going projects and initiatives

8.1 **SYNTHEsys 3** (Rob Huxley, NHM, London). This initiative began in September 2013 with one Access call already opened in October of 2013 (see <http://www.synthesys.info/>). Activities under this project were presented briefly (**Annex 8.1**). The Collections Self-Assessment tool (**Annex 8.2**) that was developed during SYNTHEsys 2 will be available until August 2017. It provides automated reports on collections and collections management capacity, and highlights areas of necessary improvement. All institutions that have not completed the self-assessment were encouraged to do so. The self-assessment tool can be found at:

<http://www.synthesys.info/network-activities/synthesys3-na2/self-assessment/>.

8.2. **European Biodiversity Observation Network - EU BON** (Christoph Häuser, NHM, Berlin). The EU BON General Meeting took place from 30<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014 in Heraklion, Crete where the project results were presented and the future goals were outlined (see publication: doi: 10.3897/natureconservation.6.6498). The CETAF Chair indicated that the CETAF EC had considered the possibility of CETAF joining the EU BON initiative as an Associated Partner. This was put to vote and approved by CETAF membership. The Memorandum of Understanding between CETAF and EU BON was signed by Michelle Price and Christoph Häuser during CETAF35. For more information on EU BON, see <http://www.eubon.eu/>.

- 8.3. European Journal of Taxonomy-EJT** (Koen Martens, RBINS, Brussels). The latest activities of the European Journal of Taxonomy were outlined (**Annex 8.3**). KM encouraged CETAF members to join the European Journal of Taxonomy, highlighting the benefits of sharing both tasks and resources, on the open access policy where neither the reader or the authors pays and on the increased indexing and impact of the journal. For more information on the EJT see: <http://www.europeanjournaloftaxonomy.eu/index.php/ejt>.
- 8.4. Distributed European School of Taxonomy-DEST** (Isabella Van De Velde, RBINS, Brussels). The presentation of the activities of the Distributed European School of Taxonomy (**Annex 8.4**) highlighted the success of the courses offered by the different participating institutions to date, as well as on the increasing number of applicants for the courses. For more information on DEST see: <http://www.taxonomytraining.eu/>. A questionnaire on e-learning or training activities in CETAF member institutions was distributed with the DEST written report.
- 8.5. SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS INTERNATIONAL - SciColl** (Ana Casino, CETAF General Secretary). A first contact has been made with the Chair (David Schindel) and the Project Manager (Eileen Graham), from the Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC, USA.
- 8.6. VIBRANT** (Chris Lyal, NHM, London). This project, with the aim of supporting the development of virtual research communities involved in biodiversity science, finished on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The project paved the way towards developing more interoperable systems and integrated services in biodiversity research and the main outcomes can be found on its website (<http://vbrant.eu/>) (including the brochure of ViBRANT products, information on Scratchpads and the project Final Report).

To facilitate reporting during CETAF meetings a new system has been put in place whereby written reports on the activities to be presented will be distributed in advance of the meeting, allowing for more succinct reports of the key issues or outcomes to be given during the meetings themselves. The written reports that were received by the GS for activities under Agenda points 8 and 9 were distributed to the CETAF membership during the CETAF 35 meeting.

## 9. Reporting of CETAF working Groups

- 9.1. Legislation and Regulation Liaison Group** (Chris Lyal, NHM, London). CL presented (**Annex 9.1**) the package of documents (the CETAF Code of Conduct on Access & Benefit Sharing including the 'Use Statement'), sent to the CETAF Directors and Official Representatives a week ahead of CETAF35, and submitted it to the CETAF approval. CETAF adopted the CETAF Code of Conduct and Use

Statement. The final version of the “Best Practices” will be produced in June. CETAF member institutions were encouraged to sign the documents and return them to the GS for the CETAF archives. CETAF members were also encouraged to disseminate the documents within their own networks.

- 9.2. Collections Policy Board (CPB).** Chistine Quaisser (NHM, Berlin) indicated that the CPB is coming to the end of its three-year term and would be going through some changes in the upcoming months in terms of its future directions and its internal composition. CQ indicated that the success of the working groups depends on the commitment and active participation of the core members.
- 9.3. Information Science & Technology Commission (ISTC)** - Anton Güntsch (BGBM-Dahlem-Berlin) presented a report (**Annex 9.2**) detailing the activities of the group on the ISTC Stable Identifiers Initiative, including the joint ISTC and pro-iBiosphere workshop on this issue that was held in October of 2013, and the pro-iBiosphere Bouchout Declaration for Open Biodiversity Knowledge Management. The final pro-iBiosphere meeting will take place in Meise, Belgium, on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and the Bouchout Declaration (<http://plazi.org/?q=bouchout>) will be presented at that meeting to be signed by the Directors of interested institutions. AG called for participants to make their director's aware of the Bouchout Declaration while it was noted that CETAF AISBL cannot sign such a declaration itself (since it is not a collection holder). The previous ISTC meeting was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> March at the National Museum Prague with 27 participants from 16 CETAF member institutions in attendance.
- 9.4. European Initiatives Advisory Group (EIA)** - Patricia Mergen (RMCA, Tervuren) presented a report of the groups' activities (**Annex 9.3**) with an analysis of the main opportunities provided by EU funding (H2020; COST actions). PM indicated that the current trends are towards smaller project consortia, collaborations with networks in other fields and the encouragement of the involvement of small businesses in funding applications.
- 10. Brief reporting on new working groups progress**
- 10.1. Digitization Group** – David Harris (RBG, Edinburgh) presented the aims of the new working group (**Annex 10.1**), which will link closely with the Strategy working group as well as the CPB and ISTC. DH thanked everyone for their contributions to the information on Digitisation that was circulated by the EC and later coordinated by a team in Naturalis and encouraged all institutions to participate in the group.
- 10.2. CETAF strategy Group** – Michelle Price (CJB, Geneva) presented the aims of the group (**Annex 10.2**) that will principally be in charge of producing the outline of the CETAF strategy for the next five years and the **CETAF** position paper. The resulting strategy will be distributed to the CETAF membership for comments

before being presented at an upcoming CETAF meeting so that it can be signed by the Directors.

**10.3 Research Assessment group** - Maria Luz Peñacoba (CSIC, Madrid) presented the main focus of this group (**Annex 10.3**), and invited interested parties to the kick-off meeting that will take place in June.

Michel Guiraud (MNHN, Paris) proposed to bring in expertise from outside CETAF to make sure that the criteria that will be proposed by CETAF also applies to other needs in other domains. It was noted that this would be part of the second phase of the groups activities.

## 11. New proposals to CETAF

### 11.1 Resume of the new the proposals previously presented to CETAF

- **Open Up!** – Walter Berendsohn (BGBM, Dahlem-Berlin) during CETAF 34 Open UP! (see <http://open-up.eu/>) requested that the CETAF considers taking on the coordination of the payments for data-harvesting services for the Open Up! partners, and eventually also the financial support of this activity, from the end of the project (April 2014). This proposition highlighted that CETAF has no clear policy on how to handle this type of proposition. WB indicated that a solution has been reached for the sustainability of Open Up! that was also seen favourably by the EU, but that the role of CETAF in the support of infrastructures should be discussed in more depth. It was decided that the Strategy group, the ISTC and the CETAF EC would consider this issue with further discussion of it to take place at an upcoming CETAF meeting.
- **Biodiversity Heritage Library-Europe (BHL-Europe)**. During CETAF34 BHL-Europe requested that the CETAF consider the adoption of this initiative into CETAF, without any financial commitment for its support and sustainability. The CETAF EC considered this request and was favourable to the proposition. This proposal was submitted for voting and approved.

### 11.2 New Proposals

- **EuColComp**. Rob Huxley (NHM, London) presented the Testing a European Competency Framework for Vocational Education and Training in Collections Management (EUColCom) project (**Annex 11**). EUColComp is a two-year Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation project funded under the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) aiming to transfer a set of universal competencies for collections management to institutions across the EU to help organisations to a) identify the competencies required for particular roles; b) identify individuals' levels of competence; and c) identify the vocational and educational training (VET) needed to address missing/weak competencies.



- **COST Action. BioUnify.** Ana Casino (GS) presented this collective initiative that was submitted to the COST call of 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2014, with the partnership of 65 representatives from 35 countries. The overarching goal of BioUnify is to coordinate existing research and capacity building efforts, through a bottom-up trans-disciplinary approach, by unifying biodiversity informatics communities across Europe.

## 12. Admission of New CETAF Members

**12.1. The NORe Consortium (Germany)** – Angelika Brandt, on behalf of the NORe Consortium, comprising 11 institutions, presented their application (**Annex 12**). After the presentation, the application was voted on by the General Assembly and NORe was approved as a new member of CETAF. The new member was welcomed with the recommendation that contacts should be made with the University of Hamburg based botanical, geological and paleontological collections.

**12.2. News on additional membership applications** was reported by the GS. Interested parties include institutions from Portugal, Israel and Bulgaria. A representative from the newly formed Bulgarian Consortium, Dr. Boyko Georgiev (Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), attended CETAF35 as an observer.

## 12. Upcoming meetings

CETAF36 – Vienna (14-15<sup>th</sup> October 2014)

CETAF37 – Meise (21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015)

CETAF38 – Geneva (13-14<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

Members interested in hosting the CETAF39 and CETAF40 meetings were asked to contact the CETAF Chair or GS.

## 13. Any other general business

**13.1. E-learning and e-training Working Commission** – Isabelle Van de Velde (RBINS-Brussels) proposed the creation of a new working group to explore the possibility of increasing the number of e-learning and taxonomy-based training courses across Europe. The potential for these types of courses within the CETAF community is very big as only an estimated 2% of such courses are currently available online. CETAF could also be involved in providing certificates for such courses and in promoting e-learning more generally (especially in the context of H2020). The General Assembly voted in favour of the creation of this working group. Interested persons were requested to contact Isabelle Van de Velde directly: [Isa.Vandavelde@naturalsciences.be](mailto:Isa.Vandavelde@naturalsciences.be).

**13.2. SANCO and veterinary inspections:** Eva-Maria Natzer (BNHC, Munich) briefly reported on the latest developments regarding the Regulation on Veterinary

Inspections. As of 2013 there is a complete derogation of compliance with exchange rules, for preserved items and DNA samples intended for scientific research. Member institutions need be aware of this new framework that may positively affect the exchange of specimens across borders for research purposes.

See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:098:0001:0057:EN:PDF>.

**13.3. Earth Sciences within CETAF.** Arne Bjørlykke (NHM, UiO, Oslo) called for an increased involvement of this diverse discipline within CETAF, and proposed a one day brainstorming meeting / workshop to discuss the state of play before the CETAF36 meeting in Vienna. Interested parties should contact Arne Bjørlykke <[arne.bjorlykke@nhm.uio.no](mailto:arne.bjorlykke@nhm.uio.no)>. Christoph Häuser (NHM, Berlin) indicated that there has been previous discussion on this issue and that a summary of this could be distributed to the group as it might be of relevance to any future discussions.

#### 14. General CETAF strategy and tactics discussion

**14.1. Report on the CETAF Roundtable discussion and the CETAF SWOT analysis – outline of the CETAF roadmap** – CETAF Chair, Michelle Price, presented the conclusions of the CETAF SWOT analysis and Roundtable discussion (**Annex 13**) that were done at CETAF34 and circulated to the CETAF membership on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Directors were encouraged to become involved or nominate persons to become involved in the CETAF strategy group (as well as the other current and future CETAF working commissions) to contribute to the development of the Consortium over the next 5-10 years

#### 14.2. Invited Speakers: Global Biodiversity Informatics Facility (GBIF):

- **Peter Schalk, GBIF Governing Board Chair** talked about the **Roadmap to Sustainable Biodiversity Services (Annex 14)**.
- 
- **Donald Hobern, GBIF Executive Secretary** talked about the **Global Biodiversity Informatics Outlook (Annex 15)**, and outlined CETAF's current and potential roles in the four main focus areas (Culture, Data, Evidence, Understanding) within biodiversity data.

GBIF exists to facilitate free and open access to biodiversity data in support of science and, through science, of science-based policy. The original OECD proposal for GBIF included an expansive vision for biodiversity content, addressing many areas which are now the domain of other international biodiversity informatics activities, such as the Catalogue of Life, the Encyclopedia of Life, the Biodiversity Heritage Library and others.

However, there is an increasing need to work on outreach activities as biodiversity issues in general, and taxonomy in particular, are rarely found on EC and other donors' calls. CETAF could be a powerful lobbying force to include these in coming calls (H2020).

GBIF itself serves as the global aggregation point for primary data on the occurrence of species, deriving mainly from natural history specimens and field observations. These data remain under the control of data publishing institutions located around the world. GBIF's central services enable the data to be brought together and organized to support user searches and downloads, and to deliver basic GIS capabilities. An increasing number of peer-reviewed articles have been based on GBIF-mediated data.

GBIF has demonstrated the capability and effectiveness of its global network and of these data integration tools. Focus is now turning to improved understanding of the coverage and gaps in available data and to prioritize the delivery to researchers of key data sets of high value. These priorities will include more details on the sampling events from which many data records derive and on the representation of species abundance. GBIF will also work more closely with other biodiversity informatics initiatives to improve the interoperability between species occurrence data and other classes of biodiversity data.

A very dynamic discussion ensued on GBIF in the future and on CETAF-GBIF interactions.

Arne Bjorlykke (NHM UiO, Oslo) argued that CETAF does not *only* represent research institutions, but also collections and curating capacity. The quality of the data should be the responsibility of the data owners, and therefore data quality should be an important part of CETAF institution's strategies.

Bengt Oxelman (Gothenburg Consortium) argued that data is free, and the users should take responsibility for the data, because otherwise important initiatives such as the citizen science initiatives would be lost.

Chris Lyal (NHM, London) made a point on the need to prioritise what is digitised – whether to do a “fast and dirty” job resulting in big numbers of data being processed – but potentially of little value in the long-term.

Leif Schulman (FNHM, Helsinki) pointed out that we need to convince donors of the importance of taxonomy. Peter Schalk responded that taxonomists and the CETAF community should be more daring in their proposals and in the sums of money requested.

The CETAF membership agreed that a small group of individuals representing CETAF would interact with GBIF to form a task force that would look into the synergies between the two organisations and on the development of collaborative initiatives.

## 15. Discussion on the CETAF road-map (priorities, contributions, topics, collaborations, common projects)

The CETAF roadmap, to be developed by the CETAF strategy Group and CETAF membership, needs to focus on the taxonomy factor within CETAF, a subject that is of major concern to CETAF members (as highlighted by the CETAF SWOT analysis) and that is central to CETAF's core objectives. Focus should be placed on identifying topics for collaborative projects, and likely partners for these collaborations, increased lobbying activities, the creation of collaborative initiatives within CETAF and on developing taxonomy and training in taxonomy within Europe, (as presented in the **Outline for the CETAF roadmap, Annex 16**). Resulting from the discussion after this presentation the CETAF decided that the CETAF should create a "What is CETAF" information booklet for outreach-publicity purposes. Regarding the CETAF roadmap, it was noted that the discussions following the presentations from the invited speakers from GBIF tied in directly with discussions within CETAF, especially on the possibilities of increasing the collaborative interactions between the two organisations.

### 15.1. Presentation of the CETAF EC Work Plan and proposed CETAF targeted activities for 2014-2015

The Chair presented the draft version of the **CETAF EC Work Plan for 2014-2018** that outlines the main tasks of the EC during that period (**Annex 17**). In parallel the proposed **CETAF target activities (Annex 18)** were outlined (to be further developed by the CETAF EC). The aim of the targeted activities is to develop a series of CETAF documents (along the same lines as the CETAF ABS documents, or previous CETAF position papers) that can be collectively supported by the CETAF membership.

## 16. Concluding remarks and formal closure of the CETAF 35 meeting.

The Chair emphasised that CETAF and the CETAF membership is now in the position to collectively work on reshaping and adapting the unique consortium, raising its profile at home and abroad, outlining its future direction(s); reinforcing the already strong internal and external network of collaborations and building on the capacities and resources within the consortium; working towards issues that are of common interest to us all and, collectively, trying to broach the subjects or tackle the problems that no one of us can deal with alone.

The CETAF 35 General Assembly was officially closed at 15.50 pm.

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