

CETAF 34
CETAF A.I.S.B.L. General Meeting

Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh
10-11 September 2013



Host and Venue: Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Course of the meeting according to the Agenda
Notes taken by: Ana Casino (General Secretary)

Participants: 24 member institutions present, including 2 represented (NBG Meise – Steven Dessen; RMCA Tervuren – Guido Gryssels), plus the General Secretary (Ana Casino): Upper Austria State Museums, Linz (Gerhard Aubrecht, Michael Malicky), NMW Vienna (Ernst Vitek), RBINS Brussels (Patrick Grootaert, Isabella van de Velde), RMCA Tervuren (Patricia Mergen), NMP Prague (Jiří Kvaček, Jiří Frank), FMNH Helsinki (Leif Schulman), MNHN Paris (Thierry Bourgoin, Vanessa Demanoff, Laurence Bénichou), MfN Berlin (Christoph Häuser, Christiane Quaisser), BGBM Berlin-Dahlem (Cornelia Löhne, Anton Güntsch, Walter Berendsohn), ZMFK Bonn (Klaus Riede, Stephanie Pietsch), SMNS Stuttgart (Johanna Eder), SNSB Munich (Eva-Maria Natzer), Natural History Museum of Crete (Petros Lymperakis), MSNUdS Firenze (Luca Bartolozzi), NHM Oslo (Arne Bjørlykke, Cecilie Webb), CSIC Madrid (Santiago Merino, María Luz Peñacoba), Gothenburg Consortium (Göran Nilson), NRM Stockholm (Stefan Claesson, Per Ericsson, Johan Bodegard), CJB Geneva (Michelle Price) and MHN Geneva (Jean Mariaux), Naturalis, Leiden (Erik Smets), RBGE Edinburgh (Stephen Blackmore, David Harris, Elspeth Haston, Hannah Atkins, Rob Cubey, Greg Kenicer, Pete Hollingsworth, Lorna Mitchell), RBG Kew (William Milliken), NHM London (Norman MacLeod).

1st DAY: Tuesday 10th September (13.00 to 18.00 h)

Welcome from Professor Stephen Blackmore, CBE FRSE, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

Welcome by Michelle J. Price, with an overview of the aims and expected outcomes of the CETAF 34 meeting (see the introduction to the CETAF 34 Agenda) and the creation of the CETAF 2014 Position Paper. Stephen Blackmore was thanked for hosting the meeting and the Edinburgh team (David Harris, Elspeth Haston and Hannah Atkins) were thanked for organising the arrangements for the meeting.

An introduction to the Strengths-Weaknesses and Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis for CETAF was given by the General Secretary, Ana Casino, with an outline of the expected contributions from CETAF members.

The meeting was opened by Michelle J. Price, Chair of CETAF at 13.30h.

- 1. Approval of the minutes from CETAF 33 (Berlin, 11-12 April, 2013).** Minutes were voted on and unanimously approved (see *Annex 1*).

2. **Approval of the Agenda for CETAF 34.** Agenda was voted on and unanimously approved (see *Annex 2*).
3. **Approval of the CETAF budget 2013-2014.** The Budget for Year 2014, based on the document projected and explained by the CETAF Treasurer, Ernst Vitek (see *Annex 3*), was voted on and unanimously approved.
4. **Updates on CETAF legal business:**
 - a) Bylaws. Several remarks and minor corrections were tabled. These were accepted and the final version of the CETAF A.I.S.B.L. Bylaws was voted on and unanimously approved (see *Annex 4*).
 - b) Change of the CETAF A.I.S.B.L. legal address: The Members unanimously approved the change of address from Leuvengestrasse,13 - 3080 Tervuren (c/o Royal Museum of Central Africa-RMCA) to Rue Vautier, 29 - 1000 Brussels (c/o Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences-RBINS).
5. **Report on the new CETAF website:**
 - a) The General Secretary gave a brief review of the main tasks undertaken since the establishment of the Secretariat in October of 2012 (See *Annex 5, 1st part*).
 - b) The General Secretary presented the progress made on the website since CETAF33 in Berlin and detailed the outstanding tasks (See *Annex 5, 2nd part*). The structure of the website is nearly fully in place (e.g. e-boards complete). The next step depends on timely contributions from Members (CETAF Passport). The website will be launched in December 2013. All distribution lists will be transferred from Berlin to the new host server as part of this process.

The CETAF motto "*Exploring and documenting the natural world*", as proposed by the CETAF EC, was discussed. Several different options were proposed and it was decided that Members would contribute alternative mottos up to the end of the discussion sessions on Day 2 (see *Annex 6*). Contributions would be duly sent to the full CETAF membership for voting. The CETAF logo was discussed. The EC received no contributions from CETAF members since CETAF 33 in Berlin thus the CETAF logo that formed part of the previous rejected logo was adopted on an interim basis (see below).. The CETAF membership voted on the logo with 13 for, 3 against and 5 abstentions. Given the lack of clear support for the logo a final call for designs for the CETAF logo was made with the hope that members can provide an in-house contribution. The deadline for contributions for the new logo (including alternatives on the font) and for the voting on the new CETAF motto is the 31 October 2013. If no new logos are received by this time the logo (below) will be adopted by default, at least for the near future.



The CETAF interim logo

To facilitate progress on the website the following information is required from each CETAF member institution (to be returned to the General Secretary):

- c) Contact person from each Institution, for communication, press, and/or website contributions,
- d) Completed CETAF Passport.

The CETAF Passport document will be sent to the CETAF membership once agreed by the Executive Committee.

6. Report on EU projects with CETAF involvement

- 6.1. Green Science
- 6.2. Esdip
- 6.3. BioCreate

CETAF participation in the 3 above mentioned projects was solicited. None of the three initiatives were approved for funding. The issues concerned with obtaining funding from EU sources, the scope and role of CETAF in applying for / managing projects (e.g. via the secretariat, as coordinator/disseminator rather than as leader), the careful and timely planning of projects, the investment and work burden for the leaders of projects and the need to anticipate funding opportunities was discussed. It was generally agreed that, although a CETAF wide project would be desirable, it may be unmanageable and that efforts could be better focused on smaller initiatives (in terms of budget, scope and participants). Within the framework of Horizon 2020, the need to coordinate projects well in advance of the deadlines, to integrate cooperation with the Private Sector and for ideas to be flexible with respect to integrating CETAF initiatives into the different programmes was discussed. It was decided that the issue of funding and future CETAF collaborative projects would be placed on the Agenda for the CETAF 35 meeting to be held in Oslo in May 2014.

7. Report from the CETAF Working Groups, by their Coordinators (See Annexes 7.1,7.2,7.3 and 7.4, respectively)

- 7.1. Legislations and Regulations Liaison Group, by Cornelia Löhne (BGBM, Berlin-Dahlem),
- 7.2. Collections Policy Board, by Christiane Quaisser (MfN, Berlin),
- 7.3. Information Science & Technology Commission, by Anton Güntsch (BGBM, Berlin-Dahlem),
- 7.4. European Initiatives Advisory Group, together by Vanessa Demanoff (MNHN, Paris) and Patricia Mergen (RMCA, Tervuren).

8. Brief reporting on the on-going projects and updates on other initiatives (See Annexes 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7 and 8.8, respectively)

- 8.1. EJT, by Laurence Bénichou (MNHN, Paris),
- 8.2. DEST, by Isabella Van de Velde (RBINS, Brussels),
- 8.3. SYNTHESYS, by Norman MacLeod (NHM, London),
- 8.4. BHL-Europe, by Jiří Frank (NHM, Prague). A detailed proposal on the creation of a Working Group / Task Group on digital libraries, with the definition of the respective role, the expectations and the implications for both parties (BHL Europe and CETAF) arising from such a collaboration, once the project BHL is over, will be forwarded to CETAF, via the General

Secretary (GS). This proposal should contain the legal / financial implications that would affect the CETAF.

- 8.5. EU-BON, by Christoph Häuser (MfN, Berlin),
- 8.6. SciColl, by María Luz Peñacoba (MNCN, Madrid), It was agreed that CETAF would begin the process to become a member. M Luz Peñacoba / N. MacLeod will investigate the possibility of CETAF taking part in the upcoming SciColl meeting in NHM of London (dates to be confirmed),
- 8.7. ViBRANT, by Isabella Van de Velde (RBINS, Brussels),
- 8.8. OpenUp!, by Walter Berendsohn (BGBM, Berlin). A detailed proposition on the possibility that the BioCASE database is maintained operational by CETAF as a central service, once the project Open Up is over, will be forwarded to the EC, via the GS. This proposal should contain the legal / financial implications that would affect the CETAF.

9. **Summary Report of the Chair**, for the period from 12th April to 10th September, 2013 (See *Annex 9*), detailing the meetings held by the EC, the decisions or actions taken by the EC, updates from the CETAF Working Groups, the CETAF position on the GBIF GBIO document and the updating of the CETAF archives. In collaboration with Stefan Claesson the Chair is completing the CETAF archives (1996-2012). Once this task is done the complete archive will be made available to the CETAF membership via the new CETAF website.
10. **Strengths-Weaknesses and Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis of CETAF** (see *Annex 10*). Contributions from Members (under the four headings) were added to panels on the boards in the meeting room.

2nd DAY: Wednesday 11th September (from 9.00 to 16.00)

11. **Presentation of the CETAF History (1996-2013)**, by Michelle Price and Stefan Claesson. A summary of the history of CETAF, the formation of the consortium, the original aims and objections of CETAF as well as the achievements of CETAF between 1996 and 2013 were outlined (See *Annex 11*).

The retirement of Gerhard Aubrecht (Upper Austria State Museums, Linz) and his replacement as CETAF representative by Michael Malicky (both present) was announced.

12. General Discussion on issues that concern CETAF:

The general discussion was opened by a round-table session where CETAF members expressed their institutions expectations of CETAF over the coming years. The comments will be summarized and circulated, along with the results from the SWOT analysis to the CETAF membership after the meeting. The contributions from CETAF members to these two items will also be incorporated in the CETAF 2014 Position Paper.

As a result of the round table, and subsequent discussions, it was decided that a CETAF strategy working group should be formed (Erik Smets, Michelle Price, Norman MacLeod, Cornelia Löhne, Maria Luz Penacoba, Thierry Bourgoin, David Harris, Arne Björlykke, Leif

Schulman, Jiri Frank, and Ana Casino expressed an interest). Persons interested in joining this working group should contact Michelle Price.

- 1) *Promote and increase access to collections and associated information*, by Michelle Price (Geneva).

The potential for e-learning and education in taxonomy, as an additional source of funding, a way to improve visibility and capacity building, and as an option to ensure the training of young taxonomists was recognised. Several institutions within CETAF already offer courses and/or Masters which could be more widely promoted both within CETAF and more widely via the new CETAF website. It was agreed that Isabella Van de Velde (DEST) and the General Secretary would explore the current situation and the outline the potential in this domain for CETAF, with the aim of forming a working group (Education and e-learning) on this issue (Isabelle Van de Velde, Ana Casino). Persons interested in joining this working group should contact Isabelle Van de Velde and Ana Casino.

Thierry Bourgoïn presented a new initiative from Quentin Wheeler about the “Linnaean Open Academy” that would seek to provide world class education to both aspiring professionals and serious amateurs. TB proposed to invite QW to present the project at the next CETAF meeting and that the Education and e-learning WG should further explore this initiative for a funded project in the future H2020. Norman MacLeod stressed the commercial aspect of this activity.

- 2) *Provide international leadership in setting and implementing standards*, by C. Quaiser (MfN, Berlin), C. Löhne (BGBM, Berlin) and María Luz Peñacoba (MNCN, Madrid).

Standards and protocols for collection management and scientific visitor access as well as for the loan and use of collections (genetic resources under the Nagoya protocol) are becoming more and more important. The Collections Policy Board and the newly formed Legislation and regulation working group are active and more discussion time will be given to these issues in future meetings. Digitisation of collections was identified as another issue where common CETAF standards might be helpful (see also below, 14.a New Working Groups).

The assessment of researchers has long been a controversial issue. It was recognised that individual research institutions understand the implications of the assessment of researchers using the Impact Factor of their publications (or other measures). However, the problem of the assessment of taxonomic researchers by funding bodies remains problematic. As a response to the current situation the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) together with a group of editors and journal publishers initiated the San Francisco *Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)* (see <http://am.ascb.org/dora/>) with the aim of recognizing the need to improve the ways in which the outputs of scientific research are evaluated. The DORA was presented and it was voted and approved that the CETAF will sign the DORA (see *Annex 12*).

As a continuation of this issue the question of the CETAF becoming more active in promoting more balanced approaches to the assessment of taxonomists was

elaborated. There have been several initiatives to investigate performance and evaluation criteria (see under Taxonomic data conformity indicator of Synthesys and the key performance indicators of EDIT) and many countries operate national indexing systems. It was felt that CETAF, as a collective voice for taxonomy in Europe, could become more active in this area. A working group will be formed on this issue (*Assessment of Taxonomists in Europe*) (E. Smets, P. Grootaert, M. Price). Persons interested in joining this working group should contact A. Casino.

There have been several initiatives by CETAF and EDIT (Project TDCI in Synthesys 1, NaB2 by TB (<http://rameau.snv.jussieu.fr/cgi-bin/TDCI/tdcbsite.pl>), and the EDIT key performance indicators) to investigate performance and evaluation criteria.

- 3) *Exploit new scientific opportunities*, by Christoph Häuser (MfN, Berlin)
Several initiatives are tabled, such as ECSA, PESI, GBIF, NSF, etc, and the need for strengthening the existing links between CETAF and these other organisations or networks as well as broadening the scope of the CETAF partnerships / links was highlighted.
- 4) *Secure Europe's taxonomic capabilities*, by Arne Björlykke (NHM, Oslo)
The need to incorporate geological collections into the CETAF aims and objectives, as well as in the upcoming Position Paper was highlighted. Many of the current members do have collections on this field and those shall be identified also as CETAF facilities. A discussion was opened on the role the Exhibitions may play in the future of CETAF, especially as they are of increasing relevance for public outreach. This issue will be discussed in more detail as part of the CETAF35 meeting.

13. Discussion summary (Chair)

In addition to the points discussed above several issues need to be addressed: Additionally to the summary of above, from many of the statements, it seems to be urgently required to have a common answer to several questions, with regards to the activity of CETAF:

- a) The geographical scope of CETAF (the question of whether more non-EU countries that have rich collections but not much infrastructure support should be invited to join) and the question of what should constitute a suitable member (should we limit the consortium to only large institutions / consortia?)
- b) Conceptual domain (should other domains be included or should the domain be redefined to include biological and geological collections only)
- c) A review of the objectives and aims of CETAF: these were originally focused on taxonomic facilities, biological collections and taxonomy but the possibility of broadening CETAF's activities to include Museum exhibitions was discussed.

It was decided that the CETAF strategy group should investigate these areas.

14. Any other business:

- a) New Working Groups:
David Harris (RBGE) proposed the formation of a Working Group on Specimen Digitisation. He has already consulted with ISTC and CPB over

possible conflicts but none were identified. Persons interested in joining this working group should contact David Harris.

b) New / stronger links to:

NSF, GBIF, ECSA, GTI, ... and other relevant networks (such as the BGCI and European Botanic Gardens Consortium)

15. Announcements and upcoming meetings:

- CETAF35, 6-7 May, 2014, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, Norway.
- CETAF36, Autumn 2014, Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria – dates to be confirmed.
- CETAF37, Spring 2015, an interest in hosting this meeting was expressed by National Botanic Garden of Belgium, Meise – dates to be confirmed.
- CETAF38, Autumn 2015, open call for a host institution.

- TDWG (Biodiversity Information Standards) Annual Conference: Florence, Italy, on October 28 – November 1, 2013.
- The GBIF Governing Board (GB20) meeting will be held in Berlin, Germany from 4-10 October.

Annexes (to be available on the CETAF website):

- Annex 1. Minutes of CETAF33 General Meeting (Berlin, 11-12 April 2013)
- Annex 2. Agenda of CETAF34 General Meeting (Edinburgh, 10-11 September 2013)
- Annex 3. Approved CETAF Budget 2014
- Annex 4. Approved CETAF Bylaws
- Annex 5. Report of CETAF General Secretariat
- Annex 6. CETAF Logo / Motto
- Annex 7. Reports of CETAF Working Groups
 - 7.1. Report of Legislation and Regulations (ABS) Working Group
 - 7.2. Report of CPB Working Group
 - 7.2. Report of ISTC Working Group
 - 7.2. Report of European Initiatives Advisory Working Group
- Annex 8. Reports on on-going CETAF Projects
 - 8.1. EJT
 - 8.2. DEST
 - 8.3. SYNTHESYS
 - 8.4. BHL-Europe
 - 8.5. EU-BON
 - 8.6. SciColl
 - 8.7. ViBRANT
 - 8.8. OpenUp!
- Annex 9. Report from the Chair
- Annex 10. Presentation of CETAF SWOT Analysis
- Annex 11. Presentation of the CETAF History (1996-2013)
- Annex 12. San Francisco *Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)*