



## Executive Report of the CETAF 45th General Meeting 15-16 May 2019, Tartu, Estonia

Michelle J. Price (CETAF Chair) and Ana Casino (Secretariat, Executive Director)

**Aims of the CETAF45 General Meeting:** Approval of the records from CETAF 44 and the CETAF Annual Accounts of 2018; Elections of the CETAF Executive Committee for the period May 2019 – May 2023; Presentation of the CETAF Taxonomy workshop outcomes; Presentation of the CETAF Position Paper on Natural History Collections; Presentation of the CETAF Progress Report.

**General information:** 44 attendees from 28 of 33 CETAF members, 1 observer (Nick Fraser, National Museums Scotland) and 2 guests (Jane Smith, Vice-Chair of BHL and Uldis Valainis, from Latvia), attended the CETAF 45<sup>th</sup> Governing Board meeting. CETAF45 was hosted by the University of Tartu Natural History Museum (Director and CETAF Representative: Urmas Kõljalg).

### CETAF Activities

**1)** involvement in EU projects and initiatives; **2)** collaboration with BHL and EBHL; **3)** partnering with sister organisations (SPNHC, CSP, IUBS, TDWG); **4)** co-organizing Biodiversity\_NEXT; **5)** supporting CETAF working groups; **6)** supporting taxonomic publishing; **7)** supporting taxonomy training across Europe; **8)** organizing workshops; **9)** taking positions with one voice; **10)** focusing on developing a joint research agenda.

The Executive Committee met physically in Geneva on the 2-3 April 2019 and virtually, every 2 weeks, to prepare: **a)** CETAF GB meeting agenda and supporting documentation (CETAF 45); **b)** the CETAF Executive Committee Elections; **c)** the CETAF 45 discussion workshop; and **d)** CETAF workshop reports and CETAF position papers. The Chair or designated EC members also attended the DiSSCo Steering Committee meetings (Chair or vice-Chair and GS).

From the Secretariat, specific actions were developed for: **1)** strengthening the team (new Communications Assistant), **2)** enlarging CETAF membership (new applications in the pipeline), and **3)** increasing the presence of CETAF across European related fora, initiatives, activities and projects.

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**CETAF45 Meeting decisions:** **1)** Agenda for CETAF45 approved; **2)** the records of CETAF 44 (Bratislava) approved; **3)** CETAF Annual Accounts of 2018 approved; **4)** the CETAF 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester 2019 Financial report agreed; and **5)** election of the members of the new Executive Committee for the 4 legal positions and 4 ordinary members.

**CETAF actions:** **1)** CETAF will follow-up the application to become member of the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity; **2)** CETAF will make a statement in regards to the IPBES report; **3)** CETAF will finalize the position papers on Natural History Collections and Taxonomy; **4)** CETAF, BHL and the EBHL will collaborate on gap-filling in digital literature in BHL; **5)** CETAF Strategy Working Group will move forward to reshape it as CETAF Scientific Research Group; **6)** the CETAF Passport will be reviewed and revised in link with the formation of a task force set up to work on streamlining annual reporting, assuring the efficiency of the CETAF Passport data repository and ensuring collaboration across initiatives.

**CETAF statements and outcomes:** **1)** Formal recognition by the European Commission of the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices document – the first document of its kind to be approved; **2)** Presentation of a new Associate Member: Natural Museums Scotland (UK); **3)** CETAF Progress Report towards the achievement of the Strategy 2015-2015 goals; **4)** Publication on Hazard and Disaster Events to the Journal of Research Ideas and Outcomes-RIO, by the Earth Sciences WG; **5)** Publication of 1000th article of the European Journal of Taxonomy; **6)** Publication of the CETAF Statutes and Bylaws; **7)** The new CETAF EC will define its work programme and objectives for presentation at CETAF 45.

**CETAF Chair and Executive Committee Elections:** The new Executive Committee of CETAF was elected for the period 2019-2023, as follows: Chair, Leif Schulman (FI); Vice-Chair, Michelle Price (CH); Treasurer, Erik Smets (NL); Secretary, Gila Kahila Bal-Gal (IL); Ordinary members: Thierry Bourgoïn (FR), Vince Smith (UK), Eva Häffner (DE) and Gergely Babocsay (HU).



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### CETAF working groups updates

**Earth Sciences Group** (Johanna Eder (NHM Stuttgart)). The group published an article on Hazard and Disaster Events in the Journal of Research Ideas and Outcomes. It is currently working on a virtual exhibition using the results of their survey on geohazards. Contact: [johanna.eder@smns-bw.de](mailto:johanna.eder@smns-bw.de).

**Legislation and regulations Group** – Ana Casino (CETAF GS), for Dirk Neumann (ZSM.MWN Munich) and Chris Lyal (NHM London). The European Commission formally recognized the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices on ABS, the first and so far unique best practices available in Europe (see: <https://cetaf.org/services/natural-science-collections-and-access-and-benefit-sharing>). The group has organized a training workshop in Stockholm on 1<sup>st</sup> of April and plans to repeat this in November, in Brussels, with a much wider participation from CETAF members. Contact: [dirk.neumann@zsm.mwn.de](mailto:dirk.neumann@zsm.mwn.de) and [c.lyal@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:c.lyal@nhm.ac.uk).

**CETAF ISTC** – Anton Güntsch (BGBM Berlin). The group is strongly involved in DiSSCo-related initiatives in regards to stable identifiers of specimens. Contact: [A.Guentsch@bgbm.org](mailto:A.Guentsch@bgbm.org).

**Digitization Group** – Patricia Mergen RMCA Terveuren, for Elspeth Haston (RBG Edinburgh). The group has been working on developing standardized definitions of «Digitisation» across projects and actions (ICEDIG, Mobilise, Sysnthesys+ and DiSSCo). The group will shortly publish its findings and updates on digitization activities are available via the group's wiki pages. Contact: [E.Haston@rbge.ac.uk](mailto:E.Haston@rbge.ac.uk).

**Collections Group** – Christiane Quaiser (MfN Berlin). CQ will step down as group coordinator Luc Willemse (Naturalis, Leiden) will become the new coordinator. The group will focus on the policies, procedures and standards affecting collections management and their further improvement. Contact: [luc.willemse@naturalis.nl](mailto:luc.willemse@naturalis.nl).



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**European Advisory Group** – Vanessa Demanoff (MNHN, Paris) & Carole Paleco (RBINS, Brussels). The new funding programme Horizon Europe proposes new instruments and tools, with a Mission-oriented approach and with a Partnerships-based approach. The group will develop a CETAF Mission Proposal on biodiversity based on the feedback received from members. Contact: [ana.casino@cetaf.org](mailto:ana.casino@cetaf.org) and [vanessa.demanoff@mnhn.fr](mailto:vanessa.demanoff@mnhn.fr).

**Biodiversity Monitoring Group** – Livia Schäffler (ZFMK Bonn). The group has been working towards submitting a COST Action in upcoming call due on September 2019 and identifying stakeholders with whom to collaborate. Contact: [W.Waegele@zfmk.de](mailto:W.Waegele@zfmk.de), and [L.Schaeffler@leibniz-zfmk.de](mailto:L.Schaeffler@leibniz-zfmk.de).

**e-Publishing Group** – Laurence Bénichou (MNHN, Paris). The group is focusing on the following activities: 1) inventorying CETAF institutional journals; 2) analysing the impact of e-publishing; 3) implementation of identifiers on publications; 4) developing a publishing platform, and 5) categorising taxonomy in Clarivate analytics tools. Contact: [laurence.benichou@mnhn.fr](mailto:laurence.benichou@mnhn.fr) and [isabelle.gerard@africamuseum.be](mailto:isabelle.gerard@africamuseum.be).

### CETAF initiatives updating

**Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST)** (Catherina Voreadou, NHM Crete, Greece) – see presentation 14.1, link given below.

**European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT)** (Laurence Bénichou, MNHN Paris) – see presentation 14.2

**BioCASE** (Anton Güntsch, BGBM Berlin, in the name of Walter Berendsohn) – see presentation 14.3

### CETAF projects and project involvement

**Synthesys+** (Vince Smith, NHM London) – see presentation 14.4

**ENVRI-FAIR** (Wouter Addink, Naturalis, Leiden) – see presentation 14.5

**MOBILISE** (Ana Casino, CETAF Secretariat) – see presentation 14.6

**ICEDIG** (Leif Schulman, LUOMOS, Finland) – see presentation 14.7

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**BIOTALENT** (Gergely Babocsay HHNM, Budapest, Hungary) – see presentation 14.8

**DiSSCo and DiSSCo Prepare** (Dimitris Koureas, Naturalis, Leiden) – see presentation 14.9

### CETAF Discussion session

A discussion on the global scientific and strategic vision for CETAF was opened with three main themes highlighted:

- How does the IPBES report influence the CETAF agenda?
- How do we better link taxonomy to biodiversity?
- How should we respond to European citizen's rising environmental awareness?

CETAF members agreed to further explore these issues in an upcoming meeting.

### News from CETAF strategic partners

**Biodiversity Heritage Library** (BHL) Jane Smith (NHM London). BHL is finalizing the transfer of content files from BHL Europe for integration into BHL. Full text searching of BHL 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.

**Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections-SPNHC**. The Memorandum of Understanding between both organizations has been signed by both Chairs and will act as the framework for collaboration and the development of joint activities, such as ABS workshops and training, or collections management issues.

### Future CETAF actions

- CETAF Position Paper on Horizon Europe (European Initiatives Advisory Group)
- CETAF Position paper on Natural History Collections (CETAF EC and task-force)
- CETAF Position paper on Taxonomy (CETAF EC and task-force)
- CETAF statement – Vision for taxonomy (CETAF EC and task-force)
- CETAF Objectives for 2020-2025 (Executive Committee)

### Upcoming CETAF Governing Board meeting venues

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

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CETAF47: Tervuren, Belgium, Spring 2020

CETAF48: Paris, France, Autumn 2020

CETAF49: Frankfurt, Germany, Spring 2021

CETAF50: Israel (to be co-organized by [the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History](#), Tel-Aviv and [the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, National Natural History Collections](#)) Autumn 2021

CETAF51: open for proposals.

### Upcoming meetings of interest

- SPNHC General Assembly (Chicago, USA, 25-31 May)
- Biodiversity\_Next (Leiden, Netherlands, 21-25 October 2019)

### Meeting presentations and outcomes

All presentations given and reports or documents presented at CETAF45 are available in the CETAF member space that is accessible via the CETAF website (<http://cetaf.org/>) in the folder "CETAF45 (Tartu, Estonia) May 2019", or via the link <https://cetaf.org/admin/workbench/group/cetaf-community-group/>.