



Pulse.

SPRING ISSUE 2021

The latest about our
community initiatives
and projects



CETAF welcomes new members!

CETAF is very proud to have welcomed **OU-NHM** (Oxford-UK) and the [DINAS Consortium](#) (7 entities from UK) as new members during the Governing Board 47 held last October virtually by the Muséum National d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) in Paris !

Our community is growing fast and we are looking forward to collaborating together.



[OU-NHM \(Oxford-UK\);](#)
and the DINAS Consortium:

[British Geological Survey;](#)

[Hunterian Museum \(University of Glasgow\);](#)

[Manchester University Museum;](#)

[National Museums Liverpool;](#)

[National Museum of Northern Ireland;](#)

[National Museum of Wales;](#)

[Bristol City Museum.](#)

CETAF Members update: [National Museums Scotlands](#), previously an associated member, becomes a full member!

CETAF chairship

Last November, Leif Schulman announced that he will be taking on a new exciting opportunity as the new General Director of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE). This means that he has stepped down as Chair of CETAF, a role he has occupied since CETAF 45 (2019).

We thank him for his involvement in CETAF and wish him all the best in this new endeavor!

According to the **CETAF Statutes**, the current Vice-Chair Michelle Price, Head of Science at the *Conservatory and Botanical Garden of the City of Geneva*, become acting CETAF Chair until the next Executive Committee elections to be held in the spring of 2023.



Earth Science Group (ESG): Dr. Rachel Walcott replaces Dr. Johanna Eder as Chair for the ESG



Johanna Eder, former Director of the State Museum of Natural History Stuttgart and a Palaeobotanist, has been the ESG coordinator since 2015 and retired from this position in October 2020. Dr Eder has shown strong commitment and provided fair, focused and supportive leadership for ESG members, which has enabled the working group to become very proactive within CETAF.

[Read more](#)



We welcome the new coordinator of the ESG: [Rachel Walcott](#). Rachel is the Principal Curator of Earth Systems Department at the National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh, UK. She is responsible for 70,000 minerals, rocks and meteorites, a collection assembled over 250 years. Her current research interests are in the drivers of calcite morphology and labels associated with historical earth science collections.

[Read more](#)

The Scientific Research Group (SciReG) starts working and planning ahead!

Co-lead by **Gila Kahila Bar-Gal** and **Thierry Bourgoin**

The main aim of the CETAF Scientific Research group (SciReG) will be to develop the **CETAF Research Agenda** for European Natural History Institutions and botanic gardens.

The group will strive to promote scientific research by:

- **publishing** of statements and position papers;
- **developing CETAF initiatives such** as projects focused on collections-linked research;
- **forging links** with key partners organisations or associations to promote taxonomic research.

The CETAF collections RoCk soon available: a brand new access system to display CETAF registry assets

The new [CETAF Registry of Collections knowledge](#) (RoCk) being developed by the *Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)*, is in its final stages of preparation. CETAF RoCk has an easy input interface for adding information to the system, it integrates the current CETAF passports. The data structure follows the data standards as **SYNTHESYS+** collection classification's scheme.



call to participants !

The new CETAF working group will gather communicators from Natural Science Collections.

The idea? to foster team spirit, communication and community, all in one !

Communi.team aims:

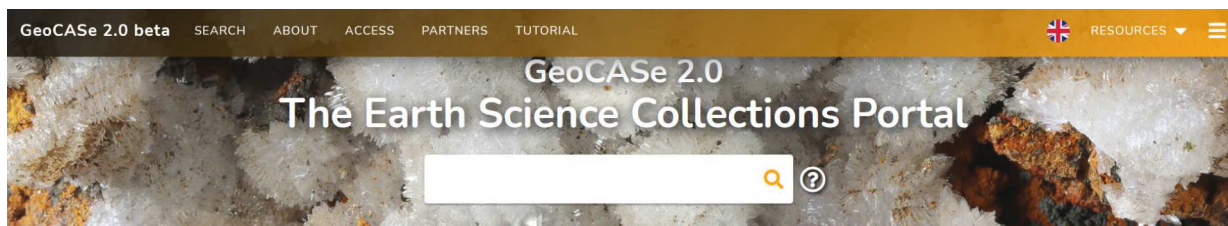
- To be an opportunity to also share best practices within the Research Institutions (progresses, outcomes, activities, events);
- To be a moment for communicators within the Institutions to **discuss** emerging topics, challenges and **brainstorm** together!
- To connect and harmonize **communication actions throughout the CETAF network**;

Are you involved in communications and interested in taking part in this group?

[register here!](#)

(kick-off meeting date will be set after registration)





GeoCAsE 2.0 is online and ready for use!

The CETAF Earth Science Group (ESG) is excited to announce that the first Minimum Viable Product of GeoCAsE 2.0 is online and ready for use!

The completely revamped, beta version of the portal allows users to quickly and efficiently find and download data on Geology, Palaeontology, Minerology and Meteorite specimens held within institutes.

Enter the Earth Science Collections Portal [here](#) !

[Read the press release](#)



45 candidates for the 2nd edition of the E-SCoRe Award!

CETAF Community is looking forward celebrating for the second year the new generation of scientists who's research using natural science collections has significantly contributed to our understanding of life on Earth.

This year's edition welcomes candidates from across the world and diverse disciplines linked to taxonomy. The celebration, taking place in late May, will coincide with the International Day for Biological Diversity. We are happy to see that the young generation is bringing a brand new vision on how natural science collections can be used in most innovative research.

The E-SCoRe Award stands for **Excellence in Scientific Collections-based Research**: it is a unique initiative rewarding early-career researchers in the fields of taxonomy, bio and geodiversity.

[Read more](#)

CETAF Institutions **#UnitedforBiodiversity** ahead of COP15!



Today, CETAF is very proud to stand alongside the **23 official supporting organisations** and **75 member institutions** of the Global Coalition, calling for stronger mobilisation in raising awareness about the need to protect biodiversity, ahead of the crucial COP 15 meeting.

We warmly thank our members for showing their interest and motivation to support this global endeavour!

[See the map of official members and supporters](#)

#Eurotaxonomy #UnitedforBiodiversity #COP15



WASHINGTONPOST.COM

How natural history museums should play a bigger role in finding the sources of wildlife pathogens

January 21st 2021: CETAF/DiSSCo COVID 19 Task Force gets **published for the first time !**

Today, museum scientists prepare for the next pandemic by preserving animal specimens in natural history collections!

We are very happy to inform you that the first joint article produced by the CETAF/DiSSCo COVID 19 Task Force has been published in **#mBio / The American Society for Microbiology**.

[Read more](#)

[Link to the publication](#)



PREPARE

18-22 January: first All Hands meeting!

First year of DiSSCo Prepare, working towards the building of the *DiSSCo Research Infrastructure*

For an entire week, together with partners and experts in the areas of governance, business, technology, services, big data, and policies, CETAF took part in more than 20 working sessions to discuss and produce key elements of what will become Europe's leading natural science collections Research Infrastructure, DiSSCo RI.

Get the latest updates and news of the project on [DiSSCo website!](#)



3rd Call for the Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM): the deadline is extended to May 31st 2021!

In its 3rd year, COST Action MOBILISE is working to build up a cooperative, inclusive, bottom-up and responsive network with active involvement of European stakeholders to support research for biodiversity informatics.

[To the call](#)

Call for participation!



is calling for **partner's proposals**
to run projects!

The scope: developing and enhancing sustainable engagement between the DiSSCo RI and industry stakeholders.

Strong and long lasting interaction pathways with industry will be important for the innovative advance of the DiSSCo infrastructure on two main levels:

- 1) For reinforcing innovation regarding the development of the infrastructure and its services,
- 2) For promoting the innovative use of data provided by DiSSCo by industry in different ways to tackle societal challenges (for example in the domains of agriculture, health, sustainable tourism, and environmental monitoring).

[Apply](#)

before **March 31st 2021!**



The European School of Taxonomy
DEST launches its new website!

The DEST new website provides a platform where training can be advertised to a broader audience. People can register on the website and see what courses are available. The platform also helps with the administrative organisation of courses.

[Register and create](#)
a **DEST course page**
by contacting dest@cetaf.org.



CETAF in the loop of BiCIKL: getting prepared to kick-off this exciting project!

*For a new community built around the **data life cycle!***

BiCIKL (Biodiversity Community Integrated Knowledge Library) is open for new communities to identify workflows for integrated access to harvesting, liberating, linking, accessing and re-using sub-article-level data (e.g. specimens, material citations, sample sequences, taxonomic names etc.) extracted from literature.

CETAF is on board alongside [DiSSCo](#), [EJT](#), [ELIXIR](#), [GBIF](#) and [Pensoft](#).

#RedListTaxonomists officially announced on Taxonomist Appreciation Day (19th March) !

CETAF is very happy to be a partner of [#RedListTaxonomists](#), a joint initiative launched together with [Pensoft](#), [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) and the [Joint Research Center](#) (European Commission). The fruitful and informative discussions initiated with the partners are promising, CETAF is eager to support the building of a database of taxonomists across Europe.

- **an assessment of taxonomic expertise** on insects in Europe on pan-European and EU-level with an emphasis on pollinators;
- **collating a database** with profiles of insect taxonomists such as researches nationality, affiliation, professional status, insect specialisation, etc. In order to assess the current taxonomist landscape, and identify areas where capacity building is needed;
- **providing recommendations** on how to strengthen taxonomic expertise.

Stay tuned to our activities and get involved!



Contact: info@cetaf.org

Natural Science Collections

Community Engaged Towards A Science-driven Future