



Exploring and documenting diversity in nature



PRESS RELEASE

CETAF AISBL
TEL: +32(0)2 627 42 30
info@cetaf.org
www.cetaf.org

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Why Do Natural History Collections Matter?

The Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid will be hosting the 20th anniversary of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)

- ▶ On 20 October with the participation of researchers, science communicators, international policy makers and representatives of the industry.
- ▶ The main objective of the event is to engage society with the importance of natural history collections in today's global economy and the challenges of the future.

On 20 October, The Royal Botanic Garden-CSIC will host the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) in Madrid to celebrate its 20th anniversary with an international event where researchers, science communicators, policy makers and representatives of the industry will participate in conversations related to areas such as collections data, bioinformatics, innovation, biotechnology and economics.

CETAF is an umbrella organization representing 59 natural history institutions from 20 countries across Europe. The collections CETAF holds represent 80% of all known biodiversity worldwide, and through these collections and the irreplaceable data held within, CETAF offers the unique opportunity to take advantage of this rich catalogue of natural heritage describing life on Earth.

With a video message presented by **Carol Portabella**, President of the Prince Albert II Foundation in Spain, **H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco** will open this morning event that seeks to celebrate 250 years of exploring and documenting diversity in nature. With the help of Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy (played by Hans Odöo), the guests will discover industries and research at the forefront of fields such as genomics and georeferencing through innovative uses of collections and taxonomy data.

Economic, scientific and technological interest

There will also be ample opportunity to explore future technological breakthroughs and recent discoveries talking with **Carmen Vela**, CEO of Ingenasa and since 2012 State Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation of the Spanish Government; **Juan Luis Arsuaga**, co-director of the Atapuerca excavation and Scientific Director of the Museum of Human Evolution; **Sophie Tuffet**, CEO of Imagene in Paris; **Carsten Rahbek**, Professor at Copenhagen's Centre for Macroecology, Evolution and Climate; **Javier de la Torre**, Founder and CEO of CARTO, New York and **Ramón Núñez Centella**, science communicator and designer of several science museums in Spain.

The two-starred Michelin chef **Mario Sandoval** will be providing refreshments using a variety of food and drinks inspired by ingredients common in natural history collections.

The event will conclude with a panel discussion highlighting the increasing opportunities for business and innovators to work with the natural history collections across Europe and beyond.

To register your interest please contact ana.casino@cetaf.org.

More information and the full programme under:

<http://cetaf.org/why-do-natural-history-collections-matter-cetaf-20th-anniversary>