

**ONECOM
MUNITY 25+
COUNTRIES
75+ INSTITUT
IONS 5000+
SCIENTISTS
1.5 BILLION
SPECIMENS**



10 years empowering #taxonomy, at the heart of the decision-making process



2013–2023 A TRANSFORMATIONAL DECADE

Final draft: Eva Haffner, Michelle Price, Ana Casino, Gila Kahila Bar-Gal, Gergely Babocsay, Erik Smets (13 November 2023)

OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY

Much has changed in our community in the last decade. CETAF has reached new heights in terms of membership numbers, cooperation and impact. But what has not changed in those ten years is the unique role that CETAF plays. This dates back even further: to the origins of our organisation.

The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) started in 1996 as the initiative of 10 natural history institutions. Our founding members shared one conviction: that it takes a strong community to make real advances. This progress was only possible through striving towards common objectives, sparking collaboration and raising awareness of the importance of taxonomic research for science and society.

Professionalisation has been crucial throughout the development of our association. After the creation of CETAF as a Belgian *Association Internationale sans but lucratif* (AISBL) in 2009, a professional General Secretariat was established in 2013 to formally run the operation of the Consortium. Since then, CETAF has raised its profile significantly, multiplying the membership in number, increasing its geographical scope and, more importantly, broadening the catalogue of services provided to the scientific community. At the same time, CETAF has made great progress towards achieving the objectives of our Strategy and Strategic Development Plan 2015-2025, to foster European cooperation and partnerships, promote scientific research in and access to European natural history collections, and act with a united voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe and beyond.

**A STRONG
AND UNITED
COMMUNITY
TO ADDRESS
URGENT
BIODIVERSITY AND
GEODIVERSITY
RELATED
ISSUES**

General Secretariat operational since 2013, 24 General Assemblies have taken place under the responsibility of three Executive Committees; 18 workshops have been organised during CETAF meetings to facilitate exchange and the exploration of topical subjects, scientific questions, emerging issues or strategic positioning.

Today, we have secured our strategic position of standing up for collections-based institutions in Europe. CETAF now gathers 44 members representing 77 natural history museums, natural science centres and botanic gardens from 25 countries. Our member institutions preserve an irreplaceable natural heritage, mobilise scientific data and information contained in natural history collections, and perform research to better document and understand the geodiversity and biodiversity on Earth. Over the last decade, thanks to the strong commitment of its members, CETAF has implemented a transformative change across the community. Through our joint engagement events, we address collective questions, develop common initiatives to obtain funding, respond to emerging issues and engage in dialogue at the science-policy interface. The successes of CETAF over the last 10 years reflect the added value of our organization to members as well as the importance of the synergies created via collaboration, communication and cooperation. While our work continues, there is much to celebrate.

COLLABORATION ON THE **DEVELOPMENT** OF **COMMON** IN **FR** **STRUCTURES** **OUTCOMES** **PRODUCTS** **AND** **SERVICES**

OPENING UP OUR COLLECTIONS

Central to our achievements in the last decade are our geological and biological collections: the source of vast knowledge generated about the natural world. Comprising an estimated 1.5 billion specimens, they are crucial to research performed by scientists in CETAF member institutions and those in similar institutions globally. It is this research that unlocks the potential they hold: helping us understand our natural assets and their evolution, across a broad range of disciplines, and to contribute to solving some of our most urgent scientific and societal problems.

Joining forces in the 11 active CETAF working groups, our expert community focuses on topics that are at the core of our activities, spanning from scientific publishing to collection management, funding initiatives, biodiversity monitoring, earth sciences, e-learning and training, scientific research, legislation, digitisation and also biodiversity informatics. The outcomes we produce are widely recognized and implemented: guidelines, recommendations, best practices, standards, repositories, training opportunities, advocacy, codes of conduct and publications.

Opening up access to the data obtained from the specimens held in collections is what makes world-class multidisciplinary research happen.

That is why the CETAF community embarked on the ambitious endeavour of creating the Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo) Research Infrastructure that was included in the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) roadmap in 2018. DiSSCo, as a data infrastructure, is being built to aggregate and link evidence-based biodiversity information from contributing member institutions using, among other pipelines, the CETAF Registry of Collections. This confirms our joint efforts are more than the sum of their parts as CETAF institutions hold essential infrastructures for European research, supporting scientific excellence.

CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices for Access and Benefit Sharing

The CETAF Code of Conduct is the first and, as of yet, the unique set of Best Practices for implementing the Access and Benefit Sharing regulations in the European Union to be officially recognized by the European Commission. It reflects the efforts of the community dedicated to simplify, harmonise and guide the application of overarching regulations that affect natural history institutions and their collections

11 infrastructure developments have been initiated by CETAF; 11 motivated and engaged working groups are working to develop best practices, guidelines, recommendations and new projects; 15 mostly EU-funded CETAF-linked projects have been granted.

RECOGNITION AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EXPANDING TAXONOMIC KNOWLEDGE AND TRAINING TAXONOMISTS

PLACING TAXONOMY AT THE HEART OF WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

Taxonomy, the science of exploring, describing and understanding diversity in nature in an evolutionary context is intrinsic to the generation of knowledge on biological entities, past and present. Just as natural history collection curation, management and enhancement are at the core of our activities, so is the scientific research linked to the collections. The outcomes of this research provide fascinating insights into the natural world, the species that have populated Earth over time and the diverse geological and biological processes that have shaped it.

In the last ten years, CETAF has worked hard to position taxonomy as an instrumental pillar for scientific research in the biodiversity realm.

Ambitious targets push the community forward within the six strategic areas identified:

- Research in systematics and taxonomy: integrating new tools and innovations;
- Science policy and key performance indexes;
- Natural history collection management and collection access;
- Biodiversity informatics and information technologies;
- Taxonomy training and e-learning;
- Communication, public outreach and societal relevance.

CETAF working groups and task forces support and facilitate excellence in science by initiating collaborative projects and engaging in cross-initiative coordination. They shape, improve and recommend community standards, tools and frameworks that facilitate breakthrough research. Numerous conferences and symposia highlighted the central role that CETAF plays in mobilising the community and communicating its activities. Our scientific perspective was also been shaped through a series of workshops held at the CETAF General Assemblies and this is now outlined in CETAF's Research Agenda for the Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sciences.

For the CETAF vision to become a reality, young researchers are key drivers for future action. Taxonomic expertise needs to be fostered and the next generation of scientists encouraged in their research. To this end, the CETAF community has supported the development of the Distributed European School for Taxonomy (DEST) which focuses on transmitting knowledge on organisms and providing diverse taxonomy training opportunities, as well as providing new skills and competencies. CETAF has also developed a new prize for early-career researchers: the Excellence in Scientific Collections-based Research, or e-SCoRe Award, now in its fifth iteration. In this way, CETAF continues to provide essential opportunities to equip young scientists with much-needed taxonomic expertise, while also giving well-deserved recognition to them and their work.

CETAF supports **DEST** as the training infrastructure for our community, CETAF has endorsed the European Journal of Taxonomy as the leading Diamond Open access journal for our community. The SYNTHESYS Initiative, developed by a group of CETAF institutions, played a unique role in promoting scientific exchange across borders and access to European natural history collections. Four iterations of E-SCoRe Award for Excellence in Collections-based Research have taken place. 6 CETAF guidelines and best practices have been produced to support science and research.

REPRESENTING EUROPEAN NATURAL HISTORY INSTITUTIONS WITH ONE VOICE

The impact of our work resonates beyond our field, becoming increasingly important in the wider societal context, now more than ever. In the last decade, our organisation's work has been even more significant with the intensified focus on safeguarding biodiversity. CETAF has strengthened its position as the key interlocutor with related disciplines, strategic partner organisations and policymakers on behalf of the community. The agreement of a common approach and the development of a fluent dialogue, channelled through CETAF, is a prerequisite for opening discussions with stakeholders, including decision-makers, and facilitating constructive conversations between the parties. Important CETAF strategic partnerships, collaborations and advocacy channels have been established over the last ten years. CETAF has also linked up with related research communities, established international collaborations and engaged with global organisations, ensuring the exchange of information as well as the alignment of common interests and the implementation of common strategic actions.

CETAF IS A **KEY STRATEGIC PARTNER** IN
THE **BIODIVERSITY LANDSCAPE**

We are also reaping the fruits of our outreach and advocacy work at the European level. CETAF is today recognized by the European Commission as an essential partner in fulfilling its strategic goals and responding to its information needs in the realm of the natural sciences. With the outset of the European Green Deal in 2019 and the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy a year later, the European Commission has committed to drive the necessary transformative change. This opens up numerous opportunities for the CETAF community, in terms of promoting the importance of taxonomic expertise and the need for embedding it in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It is also a chance to benefit from increased funding earmarked for biodiversity-related research.

All these novel pathways are already sparking new and exciting initiatives. The year 2022 saw the launch of the first-ever CETAF-coordinated EU-funded project, Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovations (TETTRIs). The project aims to provide knowledge, systems and services to tackle biodiversity loss by mobilising the community around the co-creation of taxonomic research capacity.

13 strategic partnerships and permanent collaborations, participation in strategic fora and initiatives, 10 declarations, statements and positions on taxonomy, natural history collections and research.

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Reflecting on CETAF's growth and accomplishments over the past 10 years, we find much cause for optimism. The community is now in a strong position to profit from the solid foundations established, to benefit from the outcomes accomplished so far as well as to continue to forge collaborative relationships across the community and with strategic partners, across borders and disciplines. The recognition of CETAF as the voice for the natural history collections-based institutions within Europe and of its position as a trusted source of information on biodiversity and geodiversity creates further opportunities to engage at the science-policy interface and to undertake impactful outreach campaigns.

In the years ahead, CETAF's contributions will become increasingly important in tackling Anthropocene challenges, which require intelligent, highly collaborative, solution-oriented approaches. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework calls for a coordinated perspective to ensure that scientific knowledge is integrated into the mechanisms to be put in place to achieve the 23 targets defined for 2030, and 4 overarching goals for 2050.

CETAF'S ESSENTIAL WORK TO SECURE
BIODIVERSITY ON OUR PLANET AND
ENSURE LIFE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

CETAF can now focus on its progress, growth and impact as it develops its new Strategy and Strategic Development Plan for the 2025-2035 period, reflecting the enormous changes also in the landscape since the adoption of the 2015-2025 plan, and the diverse opportunities that have emerged.

There is one common factor that has helped us accomplish so much over ten years. Raising our profile, securing our position and deepening our impact could never have been possible without the exemplary commitment we have seen from the entire CETAF community. One of the strategic priorities for the next period will be maintaining the high-level profile that CETAF has attained as an essential interlocutor at the European level. Our consultancy role as the representative of European natural history institutions should be strengthened and further developed in response to the funding environment, changing biodiversity landscape and emerging issues that may impact society. As we look to the next ten years, we aim to continue to pull together, ensuring that we have more to celebrate in the future.

17 out of 23 targets and the 4 strategic goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) are tackled by CETAF activity areas

CETAF objectives

To promote scientific research and access to European collections

CETAF aims to promote collection-based research in biodiversity and geodiversity. It contributes to systematic biology and geosciences via training, capacity building and promoting the use of natural history collections. It supports open access to biodiversity/geodiversity data and knowledge as well as the scientific expertise in its member institutions.

To foster European cooperation and partnerships

CETAF provides a platform for its members to share ideas and develop innovative collaborations. The long-standing cooperation of the CETAF community provides tangible outcomes such as biodiversity and geodiversity knowledge, publications, guidelines, best practices, registries, tools, protocols and community standards.

To be a voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe

CETAF is the reference for taxonomy and systematic biology at the European level. It ensures the contributions of scientific research on natural history collections to the European Research Area and policy-making via its collaborations, actions, projects, partnerships, statements, positioning and declarations.

CETAF Activities and Achievements in Support of its Objectives

CETAF General Assembly meetings

CETAF 33, 11-12 April 2013, Natural History Museum Berlin, Germany

CETAF 34, 10-11 September 2013, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, United Kingdom

CETAF 35, 6-7 May 2014, Natural History Museum Oslo, Norway

CETAF 36, 14-15 October 2014, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

CETAF 37, 21-22 April 2015, Botanic Garden Meise, Belgium

CETAF 38, 13-14 October 2015, Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland

CETAF 39, 3-4 May 2016, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary

CETAF 40, 18-19 October 2016, CSIC Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid, Spain

CETAF 41, 25-26 April 2017, Zoological Research Museum Alexander König, Bonn, Germany

CETAF 42, 3-4 October 2017, Natural History Museum of Crete, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece

CETAF 43, 25-26 April 2018, Natural History Museum London, United Kingdom

CETAF 44, 14-15 November 2018, Plant Science and Biodiversity Centre of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia

CETAF 45, 15-16 May 2019, University of Tartu Natural History Museum and Botanical Garden, Tartu, Estonia

CETAF 46, 21 October 2019, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands

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[The CETAF Spring meeting in 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic]

CETAF 47, 14-15 October 2020, virtual meeting hosted by the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France

CETAF 48, the requirements for the revision of the Statutes were not met and the meeting was cancelled

CETAF 49, 19-20 May 2021, virtual meeting hosted by the Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium

CETAF 49bis, an exceptional General Assembly was convened on 25 October 2021 with the aim of approving the CETAF statutes, as amended according to changes in Belgian Law governing AISBL's. As this meeting was not quorum CETAF49bis was reconvened on 9 November 2021, in the presence of the notary, where the revised CETAF statutes were legally approved, with a notary deed issued on 15 November 2021

CETAF 50, 17-18 November 2021, virtual meeting organised by the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France

CETAF 51, 11-12 May 2022, Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

CETAF 52, 23-24 November 2022, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel

CETAF 53, 9-10 May 2023, Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, Gothenburg University, Sweden

CETAF 54, 28-29 November 2023, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria.

CETAF Executive Committee 2013-2016

Chair: Michelle Price, Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland

Vice-chair : Christoph Häuser, Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany

Treasurer: Ernst Vitek, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria

Secretary: Patricia Mergen, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium

Ordinary members:

Cornelia Löhne, Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin, Germany

Thierry Bourgin, National Museum of Natural History Paris, France

Arne Bjørlykke, Natural History Museum Oslo, Norway

Maria Luz Peñacoba, CSIC - National Museum of Natural Sciences, Madrid, Spain (until April 2014), replaced by Norman MacLeod, Natural History Museum London, United Kingdom

2016-2019

Chair: Michelle J. Price, Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland

Vice-Chair: Thierry Bourgin, National Museum of Natural History Paris, France

Treasurer: Erik Smets, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Secretary: Cornelia Löhne, Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin, Germany (until 2017), replaced by Jesus Muñoz, CSIC Royal Botanical Garden Madrid, Spain

Ordinary members:

Jiří Kvaček, Natural History Museum Prague, Czech Republic

Jesus Muñoz, CSIC-Royal Botanical Garden Madrid, Spain

Nikolaj Scharff, Natural History Museum Copenhagen, Denmark

Vincent Smith, Natural History Museum London, United Kingdom

2019-2023

Chair: Leif Schulman, LUOMUS Helsinki, Finland (until November 2020)

Vice-Chair: Michelle J. Price, Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, Switzerland. Acting Chair from November 2020.

Treasurer: Erik Smets, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands

Secretary: Gila Kahila Bar-Gal, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Ordinary members:

Gergely Babocsay, Hungarian Natural History Museum Budapest, Hungary

Thierry Bourgin, National Museum of Natural History Paris, France (until May 2023)

Eva Häffner, Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin, Germany

Vincent Smith, Natural History Museum London, United Kingdom (until October 2020)

Note, the terms president and vice-president were adopted in 2021 in accordance with the new CETAF Statutes.

CETAF General Secretariat

CETAF General Secretariat is the body that carries out the day-to-day running of CETAF and undertakes activities to support the objectives of the Association, under the direction of Ana Casino, Executive Director since 2013, and under the responsibility of the CETAF Executive Committee.

The CETAF General Secretariat is currently formed by:

- Ana Casino, Executive Director
- Laura Tilley, Projects Coordinator
- Marko Lovric, Advocacy and Engagement Officer
- Alessandro Marchi, Communications Officer
- Marta León, TETTRIs Project Manager
- Charlotte Mestanogullari, CETAF Operations Assistant

The following people have contributed to CETAF via their engagement in the General Secretariat under different mandates or projects: Mobale Balilonoso, Céline Cassarino, Christophe Coel, Marine Ejuryan, Karsten Gödderz, Lise Goudeseune, Barbara Herrero, Marie Laure Kamatali, Kevin Keyaert, Mariano Iossa, Blanca Madrigal, Silvia Pallares, Damian Tonon, and Xavier Vermeersch. Internes: Alfonso Escribano, Giacomo Begala and Laura Morales.

CETAF working groups, commissions and task-forces

Collections Group A focus on collections management within CETAF

Coordinator: Luc Willemse, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, The Netherlands. Integrated into CETAF from EDIT in 2011.

Communication Group A focal point for CETAF communications

Coordinator: Alessandro Marchi, CETAF General Secretariat, Brussels, Belgium. Created in 2017.

Digitisation Group Driving digitisation for our collections

Coordinator: Heimo Rainer, Natural History Museum Vienna, Austria. Created in 2014.

Earth Sciences Group Bringing visibility to our Earth science collections

Coordinator: Rachel Walcott, National Museums Scotland, United Kingdom. Created in 2015.

European Biodiversity Monitoring Group

Putting our biodiversity expertise to use
Coordinator: David Ott, Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Bonn, Germany. Created in 2017.

European Projects Advisory Group

Sourcing European funding opportunities for our institutions

Coordinator: Ana Casino, CETAF General Secretariat, Brussels, Belgium. Created in 2013.

Information Science & Technology Commission

Developing technical services for our community

Coordinator: Anton Güntsch, Botanic Garden and Botanic Museum Berlin, Germany. Integrated into CETAF from EDIT in 2011.

Legislation and Regulations Group

A strong voice for policy in our community

Coordinator: Dirk Neumann, Leibniz Institute for the Analysis of Biodiversity Change, Hamburg, Germany. Created in 2013.

e-Publishing Working Group

Supporting our online scientific publishing

Coordinators: Laurence Bénichou, National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France and Isabelle Gérard, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium. Created in 2014.

Research Agenda task-force (2023)

tasked with drafting the CETAF Research Agenda for natural history collections in Europe. Created in 2023.

Research Assessment (2014-2018)

tasks taken up by the e-Publishing Group and the Scientific Research Group.

Scientific Research Group

Coordinating the research agenda for our institutions

Coordinator: Gila Kahila Bar-Gal, National Natural History Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Created in 2019.

Strategy Group (2014-2015)

tasked with producing the CETAF strategic framework and associated documentation.

Training and e-Learning Group

Capacity building for online education in taxonomy and the geosciences. Coordinators: Iasmi Stathi and Katerina Voreadou, Natural History Museum of Crete, Greece. Created in 2014.

CETAF General Assembly Workshops on emerging issues

CETAF Strategy and Strategic Development Plan

Roundtable discussion and Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) Analysis Workshop. Towards an outline of the CETAF roadmap (10 – 11 September 2013, Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh, CETAF 34)

Strategy Workshop: Consolidation of the CETAF strategy and strategic development plan (22 April 2015, Meise Botanic Garden, CETAF 37)

Developing the CETAF vision and mission for 2025 - 2035 Workshop (12 May 2022, Senckenberg Research Institute and Natural History Museum, CETAF 51)

CETAF positioning and responses to emerging issues

CETAF road-map discussion: priorities, contributions, topics, collaborations, common projects (7 May 2014, Natural History Museum of Oslo, CETAF 35)

CETAF's role in European cultural heritage and common European infrastructures - Discussion Session (15 October 2014, Natural History Museum, Vienna, CETAF 36)

Common directions for the future: identifying CETAF actions for 2015-2016 and beyond, Discussion Session (13-14 October 2015, Conservatory and Botanical Garden of Geneva, CETAF 38)

Concrete Actions for the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities Workshop (26th April 2017, Zoological Research Museum Alexander König, Bonn, CETAF 41)

Workshop on Strategic positioning in a changing and complex landscape and how to maximize impact of CETAF strategic decisions in institutions (21 October 2019, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, CETAF 46)

Workshop on developing a CETAF proposal on taxonomic capacity building under Horizon Europe (20 May 2021, virtual meeting, organized by Royal Museum of Central Africa, CETAF 49)

New CETAF Business Model (24 November 2022, The National Natural History Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel, CETAF 52)

Developing the CETAF Research Agenda

CETAF Responsible Research and Innovation Workshop (4 May 2016, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, CETAF 39)

CETAF Joint Research Agenda for Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sciences Workshop (26 April 2018, Natural History Museum London, CETAF 43)

CETAF Why do we need taxonomy? - Taxonomy Workshop (14-15 November 2018, Bratislava, Slovakia, CETAF 44)

CETAF Why are Natural History Collections Important? Workshop (15 May 2019, Tartu, Estonia, CETAF 45)

CETAF Research Agenda (24 November 2022, The National Natural History Collection of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University, CETAF 52)

Tackling CETAF key themes

Earth Sciences in CETAF (13 October 2014, Natural History Museum, Vienna, CETAF 36)

CETAF Electronic publishing and Electronic publications Workshop (19 October 2016, Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid, CETAF 40)

The use of CETAF Social Media (26 April 2017, Zoological Research Museum Alexander König - Bonn, CETAF 41)

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CETAF core documentation

CETAF Statutes (updated in 2022)
CETAF Bylaws (updated in 2022)
CETAF Business Model
CETAF Membership Benefits leaflet
CETAF Institutional Passport
CETAF Executive Committee User Guidelines

CETAF strategy, guidance and positioning

CETAF Strategy and Strategic Development Plan 2015-2025, 2015
CETAF Strategy and Strategic Development Plan, Executive Summary, 2016
Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) Code of Conduct and Best Practice
for Access and Benefit-Sharing adopted at CETAF 35 (Oslo) in 2014 and Code of Conduct published in 2015; Updated version in 2019, United Kingdom modified version in 2021
Input from the CETAF Legislation and regulations group to the Guidance document on the scope of the EU ABS Regulation (2016)
CETAF Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation, 5 principles to guide 5 domains, 2017
CETAF Bratislava Declaration on the 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2018
CETAF Executive Statement on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of Genetic Resources, 2018
CETAF e-publishing guidelines: Recommendations regarding authorship citation and open access, 2018
Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) best practices in electronic publishing in taxonomy, 2018
CETAF stable identifiers for specimens - poster
Joint statement from the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) on Taxonomy in the post-2020 Framework for Biodiversity: underpinning the 2050 Vision for Living in Harmony with Nature, 2018

CETAF statement on CETAF and DiSSCo - an unprecedented opportunity for natural science collections, 2018
CETAF Statement on the IPBES 2019 Global Assessment Draft Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
CETAF Community Guidelines for Engaging with National Contact Points for Horizon Europe, 2022
Joint statement on best practices for the citation of authorities of scientific names in taxonomy by CETAF, SPNHC and BHL, 2022
CETAF Statement on the position of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities CETAF in the landscape of natural history collections and taxonomy, 2023
CETAF Statement for the Sustainability of Taxonomic Knowledge and Expertise, 2023
CETAF Gothenburg Declaration on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2023
CETAF Vienna Declaration on the importance of research in natural history institutions, 2023
CETAF Policy Brief: Taxonomy as an instrumental component in the implementation of actions and policies developed under the Global Biodiversity Framework, 2023
Joint statement by CETAF, SPNHC and BHL on DATA within scientific publications: clarification of [non]copyrightability, 2023

CETAF formal partnerships

Memoranda of Understanding

BGCI - Botanic Gardens Conservation International, 2016
BHL - Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2018
EU BON - European Biodiversity Observation Network, 2014
GBIF - Global Biodiversity Information Facility, 2012
Species 2000 - Catalogue of Life, renewed in 2015
SPNHC - Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, 2019

Membership or partnership agreements

BioSystEU - European Systematics Association - collaborative partner, 2016
CBD - Convention on Biological Diversity - Scientific Partner, 2020
CoARA - Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment - signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment and Member, 2023
ECSA - European Citizen Science Association - Member, 2014
European Commission, Consultation Forum on Access and Benefit Sharing - Member, 2015
IUBS - International Union of Biological Sciences - Scientific member (2022)
IPBES (The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) - Observer organisation, 2015 at IPBES3

CETAF project participation over the last 10 years

BGE - Biodiversity Genomics Europe, European Union, 2022-2026. Work-package leader.
BiCIKL - Biodiversity Community Integrated Knowledge Library, European Union H2020, 2021-2024. Work-package leader.
BIOTALENT - Talent in Biodiversity, Erasmus+, 2016-2019. Partner.
DiSSCo Prepare, European Union Horizon 2020, 2020-2023. Stream coordinator and work-package leader.
DiSSCo Transition, European Union Horizon Europe, 2023-2025. Work Package leader.
ENVRI-FAIR - Environmental Research Infrastructures building Fair services Accessible for society, Innovation and Research, European Union Horizon 2020, 2019-2023. Task partner.
European Redlist of Taxonomists. EU Service Contract led by Pensoft, CETAF as a contractual partner alongside the IUCN. 2021-2022.
ICEDIG - Innovation and consolidation for large-scale digitisation of natural heritage, European Union Horizon 2020, 2018-2020. Work-package leader.

MOBILISE - Mobilising Data, Policies and Experts in Scientific Collections, European Union COST Action, 2018-2023. Deputy Coordinator.

Naturalheritage.be, Belgian Federal Science Policy Office BELPSO, 2017-2019. Partner.

SYNTHESESYS 3 - Synthesis of Systematic Resources, EU FP7, 2013-2017. Observer.

SYNTHESESYS PLUS - Synthesis of Systematic Resources, European Union H2020, 2019-2023. Work-package leader.

TETTRIs - Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovations, European Union Horizon Europe, 2022-2026. Technical coordinator.

Examples of CETAF-linked projects

LinBi - Linking Biodiversity and Culture Information, co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union (2019-2020).

OpenUp! - Opening up the natural history heritage for Europeana, co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union CEF (2011-2014).

ViBRANT - Virtual Biodiversity Research and Access Network for Taxonomy, EU FP7, 2010-2013.

CETAF-linked infrastructures and infrastructure components from the community

Access to Biological Collection Data (ABCD) and Extension for Earth Sciences (ABCD EFG)

Biological Collection Access Service (BioCASE), the CETAF GBIF node
BIOTALENT e-learning platform

CETAF Botany Pilot

CETAF Registry of Collections

CETAF Stable Identifiers

CETAF Standards Compliance Dashboard

Distributed System of Scientific Collections (DiSSCo)

Geoscience Collections Access Service (GeoCASE)

International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) CETAF implementation recommendations

Minimum Information about a Digital Specimen (MIDS) Standard

CETAF supported initiatives

CETAF Excellent Scientific Collections-based Research Award (E-SCoRe) for young researchers, awarded annually since 2020

COVID 19 Taskforce (2020-2021)

Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST), created under EDIT, adopted by CETAF in 2011 and powered by CETAF since 2022

European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT), created under EDIT and endorsed by CETAF in 2011

CETAF events and invited contributions

Symposium Why do natural history collections matter? celebrating the 20th Anniversary of CETAF on the 20 October 2016, hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden, Madrid.

Symposium on The roles of natural history collections in exploring biodiversity at the BioSyst.EU meeting on the 15-18 August 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden. Organised for CETAF by Brecht Verstraete of the Natural History Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Workshop on The CETAF community approach to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in and across Europe at the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva, Botanical Gardens in the Society: Visions for the Future on 25-30 June, 2017. Two talks were also given CETAF – more than the sum of its parts (Michelle Price) and Coming to terms with ABS – Approaches and Experiences of European Natural History Collections and Botanic Gardens (Ana Casino)

CETAF was invited to participate in the Global Biodiversity Conference 2 (GBIC2) on the 24-27 July 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark (Michelle Price & Ana Casino) and co-hosted a workshop on Biodiversity knowledge network - Culture (Michelle Price, CETAF & Dmitry Schigel, GBIF Secretariat).

PCETAF participated in the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) Forum on the 16th November 2018, in Egypt at the Conference of the Parties 14 (COP 14) meeting. Hendrick Segers (RBINS) gave an invited talk on CETAF and the importance of collections – a collaborative project.

Symposium on Persistent Identifiers (PID) in the biodiversity data life cycle on 14 May 2019, organised by the Natural History Museum of Tartu, GBIF and CETAF, with a contribution by CETAF on “Opening up natural history collections for science with persistent identifiers: policies, stakeholders and common goals” (Michelle Price)

Biodiversity Next Conference, 22-25 October 2019, Leiden, The Netherlands, co-organised by CETAF, DiSSCo, GBIF, iDigBio, TDWG, LifeWatch and the Netherlands Biodiversity Facility.

CETAF-linked contributions during Biodiversity Next:

CETAF DEST e-Training Course: Biodiversity in a changing climate: e-learn more. Pre-conference event organized by Catherina Voreadou, Iasmi Stathi and Gergely Babocsay.

Pan-European Biodiversity Monitoring. Workshop organized by Livia Schäffler, Ana Casino, Urmas Kõljalg, Eva-Maria Natzer, Jonas Zimmermann, Martin Husemann, Wolfgang Wägele, Iasmi Stathi, Beáta Papp, Ittai Renan and Tamar Dayan, CETAF Monitoring Group.

Contributing to a co-designed Mission on Biodiversity in the framework of Horizon Europe. Workshop organized by Carole Paleco, Ana Casino, Vanessa Demanoff, Josefina Efedaque, Hilde Eggermont and Patricia Mergen, CETAF European Projects Advisory Group.

Semantic Annotation of Collection Data. Symposium organized by Anton Güntsch, Quentin Groom and Roger Hyam, CETAF Information Science and Technology Commission.

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DiSSCo as a model for regional development of collections infrastructure. Symposium organized by Wouter Addink and Ana Casino.

Enhancing taxonomic publications for dynamic data exchange and navigation. Symposium organized by Laurence Bénichou, Donat Agosti, Isabelle Gérard, Lyubomir Penev and Chloë Chester, CETAF e-Publishing Working Group.

Fostering the taxonomic imperative: the opportunities and challenges of the 2050 biodiversity goals. Workshop organized by Michelle Price, Thierry Bourgoïn, Erik Smets, Jesús Muñoz, Jiří Kvaček, Nikolaj Scharff, Vince Smith and Ana Casino, CETAF Executive Committee.

Promoting natural history collections for understanding biodiversity and biodiversity change. Workshop organized by Jean-Denis Vigne, Michelle Price, Michel Guiraud, Jan-Sheng Sun and Christoph Häuser.

The role of Earth Science collections within biodiversity research. Symposium organized by Jiří Frank and Falko Glöckler, CETAF Earthsciences group.

Facilitating capacity building of young researchers. Symposium organized by Boyko Georgiev, Catherina Voreadou, Ana Casino and Iasmi Stathi, CETAF e-learning group.

CETAF participated in the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum on the 2-4 December 2020, CETAF as an invited participant and gave a presentation on Exploring and documenting diversity in nature: CETAF, a European network of natural history institutions and taxonomic experts (Michelle Price).

Symposium Close the Gap – the impact of taxonomy in the Anthropocene. Scientific and societal challenges in the biodiversity domain.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities and the 50th CETAF Governing Board meeting, 18 November 2021, virtual meeting, organised by National Museum of Natural History, Paris, France and opened by HRH Princess Esméralda of Belgium.

Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) conference on the 5-10 June 2022, co-hosted by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland

CETAF-linked contributions during the SPNCH conference:

Collection space in the 21st century and beyond Symposium and Collections Space workshop on, organised by Luc Willemse, CETAF collections group

Presentation on Networking specimen data across collections and disciplines: the CETAF Botany Pilot by Anton Güntsch, CETAF ISTC, in the symposium Identifiers and labels in natural history collections: new technologies, challenges and opportunities for linking objects and data

Presentation on All the cool stuff a taxonomic journal can (should?) showcase through semantic enhancement by Laurence Bénichou, EJT, in the symposium Liberating Natural History Collections Data in Biodiversity Literature

DiSSCo Futures Conference, 7-9 February 2023 in Brussels, Belgium, co-organised by CETAF and hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Meise Botanic Garden, the Royal Museum for Central Africa and CETAF.

Session on Organisational & Human Capacity co-organised by CETAF (Ana Casino) and DiSSCo (Eva Alonso)

International Symposium on Palaeo-bioinspiration (PALBINS), 13-15 September in Paris, France, supported by CETAF and with an opening address by CETAF on CETAF and Palaeo-bioinspiration (Michelle Price)

Communications

Press releases

CETAF statement on Sustainability of the taxonomic knowledge (14 April 2023).
Statement from the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) on the invasion of Ukraine (07 March 2022)
The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities join the EC Global Coalition “United for #Biodiversity”(28 September 2020)
EU Recognition of CETAF Code of Conduct and ABS (23 May 2019)
CETAF 20th Anniversary (13 October 2016)
100th issue of the European Journal of Taxonomy (24 October 2014)

CETAF Newsletter, E.Pulse

Pulse Spring Issue (Spring 2021)
E.Pulse number 1 (6-2022)
E.Pulse number 2 (10-2022)
E.Pulse number 3 (1-2023)
E.Pulse number 4 (4-2023)
E.Pulse number 5 (7-2023)
E.Pulse number 6 (9-2023)

CETAF Corporate Video
CETAF promotional material and flyers
CETAF, E-publishing working group (flyer)
CETAF, Collections group (flyer)
CETAF, Information Science and Technology Commission (flyer)
CETAF, Distributed European School of Taxonomy (flyer)
CETAF, Exploring and Documenting Diversity in Nature (poster)

Key dates

2013

Presentation on the history of CETAF (1996-2013), by Michelle Price and Stefan Claesson (former CETAF Chair) at CETAF 34
CETAF formally launches the CETAF General Secretariat hosted by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium
CETAF transfers its legal seat from The Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren to the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, host of the CETAF General Secretariat
CETAF adopts the motto “Exploring and documenting the natural world”
CETAF signs the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
CETAF undertakes a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats analysis
CETAF creates the European Initiatives Advisory Group
CETAF proposes the formation of a Specimen Digitisation Group

2014

CETAF adopts a new logo that was designed in the Natural History Museum, Berlin
CETAF joins EU BON as an associate member
CETAF adopts the CETAF Code of Conduct on Access and Benefit Sharing at CETAF 35
CETAF approves the Guidelines for the formation and functioning of Working Groups
CETAF launches its new website
CETAF becomes a partner of the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)
CETAF forms a new working group on Research Assessment
CETAF forms a new e-learning and e-training working group
CETAF welcomes two new members, the NORe Consortium (Germany), and the Bulgarian Consortium
The new CETAF membership application form was implemented

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2015

CETAF implements its new strategy and strategic development plan 2015-2025

CETAF endorses the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices on Access and Benefit Sharing

CETAF gains membership of the European Commission Access and Benefit Sharing Forum

CETAF endorses the European Journal of Taxonomy

CETAF establishes its Vision, Mission and Values

CETAF becomes an observer in the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

CETAF launches its new promotional material and membership benefits leaflet

CETAF approves its new bylaws

the BIOTALENT - Talent in Biodiversity, Expertise for improved skills and new jobs project proposal is submitted to Erasmus by the training and e-learning group

CETAF renews its Memorandum of Understanding with Species 2000

2016

CETAF Directors endorse the CETAF Strategy Executive Summary

CETAF joins the European Commission consultation forum on ABS

The CETAF secretariat partners with the BIOTALENT project

CETAF welcomes two new members, the Czech Consortium and the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv

CETAF welcome the return to full member status of the Natural History Museum of Senckenberg

CETAF implements the CETAF passports on its website

CETAF signs a memorandum of understanding with Botanic Garden Conservation International (BGCI)

CETAF welcomes a new member, CETAF gets involved in the creation of the new DiSSCo Initiative

2017

CETAF joins the Board of European Environmental Research Infrastructures (BEERi)

CETAF joins the Horizon 2020 project Environmental and Earth System Research Infrastructures (ENVRIplus)

The CETAF Chair becomes a member of the DiSSCo Steering Board

CETAF participants in the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva

CETAF forms a new working group on monitoring European biodiversity

CETAF becomes a partner in NaturalHeritage.be project for data interoperability at National level in Belgium

CETAF becomes a partner in the ICEDIG (Innovation and Consolidation for large scale Digitisation of natural heritage) project

2018

CETAF submits the CETAF Bratislava Declaration to the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity

CETAF issues a Joint statement with the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) on Taxonomy in the post-2020 Framework for Biodiversity and submits it to the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat

CETAF signs a memorandum of understanding with Biodiversity Heritage Library

CETAF approves its updated Statutes and Bylaws

CETAF formalises a new working group on e-Publishing

CETAF becomes a partner in the SYNTHESYS+ project

CETAF welcomes a new member, the National Natural History Collections, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

CETAF approves its Bratislava Declaration on the 2050 Vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity and submits it to the CBD Secretariat

CETAF participates in the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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CETAF participates in the Global Biodiversity Conference 2 (GBIC2) on the 24-27 July 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark

2019

CETAF's Code of Conduct on ABS is recognized by the European Union recognises as best practice guidelines for Europe

CETAF becomes a Stakeholder Organisation in the European Research Area (ERA)

CETAF signs the Alliance for biodiversity knowledge

CETAF forms a new working group on scientific research

CETAF welcomes two new members, the Natural History Museum Bern, Switzerland and the Natural History Museum of Luxembourg

CETAF approves the awarding of a prize for young researchers, Excellence in Scientific Collections-based Research (E-SCORE award)

2020

CETAF joins the European Commission Global Coalition "United for #Biodiversity"

CETAF becomes a Scientific Partner of the Convention of Biological Diversity

CETAF welcomes National Museums of Scotland as a full member

CETAF welcomes two new members, the DINAS Consortium and the Natural History Museum of the University of Oxford

CETAF gives its first E-SCoRe award to Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford

CETAF launches its new website

CETAF established its COVID-19 Task Force

CETAF participates in the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum on the 2-4 December 2020 as an invited contributor

CETAF co-authors and signs the final Declaration of the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum Call for action on recognizing the critical role of taxonomy to underpin transformative change within the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework of the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum.

2021

CETAF signs the Redlist of taxonomists tender agreement alongside Pensoft (leader), and the IUCN.

CETAF supports the formation of an ERIC legal framework for the DiSSCo infrastructure

CETAF participates in the drafting the Global Taxonomy Initiative Forum report, published in the CBD technical series #96: The Global Taxonomy Initiative in support of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

CETAF organises a consultation session on "The importance of taxonomy in and across Europe" with contributions from Mr Vujadin Kovacevic, Policy Officer at European Commission, Dr Josefina Enfedaque, Senior Expert on Biodiversity Research Policy from DG Research and Innovation, and Dr Hilde Eggermont, BiodivERsA.

CETAF adopts its new Statutes and Bylaws, amended after changes in Belgian Law governing Association International sans Buts Lucratifs (AISBL's)

CETAF gives its second E-SCoRe Award to Mark D Scherz, curator at the Natural History Museum of the University of Copenhagen.

CETAF celebrates its 25th Anniversary and the 50th General Assembly meeting

CETAF hosts a symposium "Close the Gap – the impact of taxonomy in the Anthropocene. Scientific and societal challenges in the biodiversity domain"

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2022

CETAF launches the new CETAF DEST training platform and website
CETAF issues a statement on the invasion of Ukraine
CETAF submits a proposal on Taxonomic Capacity Building: Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovations (TETTRIs) is submitted to Horizon Europe
CETAF's adapted CETAF Code of Conduct on ABS is recognized in the UK
CETAF welcomes two new associate members, the Icelandic Museum of Natural History and Orto e Museo Botanico dell'Universita di Pisa, Italy
CETAF participates as a partner in a new project, Biodiversity Genomics Europe (BGE) and will be leading the Policy work package
CETAF begins the process of revising its Business model and developing its new strategy 2025-2035
The CETAF Secretariat participates as a partner in the BiCiKL project
CETAF adopts its new Bylaws
CETAF launches its EU Horizon Europe funded project TETTRIs (Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovations), 2022-2026

2023

CETAF signs the CoARA agreement on Research Assessment and joins the organisation
CETAF issues a statement on the position of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities in the landscape of natural history collections and taxonomy
CETAF issues a statement on the Sustainability of Taxonomic Knowledge and Expertise
CETAF issues its Gothenburg Declaration on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
CETAF issues its Vienna Declaration on the importance of research in natural history collections
CETAF issues a Policy Brief on Taxonomy as a core component of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
CETAF issues a joint statement with SPNCH and BHL on DATA within scientific publications: clarification of [non]copyrightability, 2023
CETAF drafts its Research Agenda for natural history collections in Europe





Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities AISBL
 General Secretariat
 c/o Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
 Rue Vautier 29 — 1000 Brussels, Belgium
 ✉ info@cetaf.org ☎ +32 (0)2 627 42 51
 www.cetaf.org

