

Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities

STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN*

Executive Summary



*Exploring and documenting
diversity in nature*



COVER

Calliphora sp.,
Head close-up,
by Jonathan Brecko,
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Dinosaur Gallery
— *Iguanodon*
bernissartensis,
by Thierry Hubin
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The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) is the unique platform for natural history collections and natural history sciences within and across Europe. CETAF member institutions, united by common objectives, are also leaders in the field of taxonomy and systematics world-wide.

CETAF's objectives are to promote scientific research on and access to European collections, to facilitate the formation of partnerships, to develop funding opportunities, and to act as a voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe. CETAF advocates the value of both natural history collections and taxonomy to science and society. CETAF is at the forefront of key issues in the natural sciences and natural history collections in Europe. Together, CETAF's member institutions represent the largest natural history collection infrastructure, taxonomy and systematics research network, training and education facility, and natural science communication in Europe.

These integral properties of the consortium and the strength of its 20-year-old collaborative network ensure that CETAF is the most significant distributed natural history collection research infrastructure in Europe.

THE CORE ACTIVITIES OF CETAF AND ITS MEMBER INSTITUTIONS ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN 6 KEY STRATEGIC AREAS:

Research in systematics & taxonomy: integrating new tools and innovations

Fostering taxonomy and promoting activities that accelerate the documentation and understanding of the natural world, including the development of a CETAF-wide taxonomy and species discovery initiative.

Science policy and key performance indexes

Representing natural history collections, taxonomy and systematics in European science policy and within relevant legislative processes in order to strengthen our position.

Natural history collections management and collection access

Developing, adopting and implementing best practices, common policies and joint initiatives that promote physical and digital access to our collections.

Biodiversity informatics and information technologies

Ensuring that collection and taxonomic data are digitally interpretable, interconnected and retrievable in order to increase the visibility and use of collection data.

Taxonomy training and e-learning

Fostering education, training and e-learning initiatives on taxonomy and collections, and ensuring the capacity to deliver courses and training programmes in Europe and beyond.

Communication, public outreach and societal relevance

Promoting and sharing scientific knowledge on biological and geological diversity that is key in tackling current societal issues.

The synergies created within CETAF and between its member institutions — their directors, their heads of science, their collection managers, their information specialists, and their scientists — demonstrate that the benefits and added-value of knowledge and resource sharing, cooperation, and collaboration are greater than the sum of the institutions themselves.

CORE CETAF VALUES

Trans-national commitment to understanding and promoting diversity in nature; cooperation and transparency; science in society for the understanding and sustainable use of biodiversity; resilience; equality; collaboration; responsible research.

CETAF WORKING GROUPS

The activities of CETAF working groups are at the forefront of key issues within and across Europe: **Collections Policy Board** (common collection management and collections access policies); **Digitization Group** (discussion of specimen digitization, digital data storage and curation, Digi-wiki); **Earth Sciences Group** (developing collaborations on Earth Sciences within CETAF); **European Initiatives Advisory Group** (reviewing of European funding initiatives); **Information Science and Technology Commission** (CETAF Stable Identifiers for biological collections, biodiversity data standards); **Legislation and Regulations Group** (Nagoya Protocol implementation, CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices for Access and Benefit Sharing); **Research Assessment Group** (CETAF guidelines for the assessment of taxonomists and taxonomic works); **Strategy Group** (strategic development of the Consortium); **Training and e-learning Group** (development of training and e-learning opportunities).

25 TARGETS FOR CETAF FOR 2025

Research in systematics & taxonomy, integrating new tools and innovations

- ▶ 30,000 new species described and 20,000 new impact factor articles, books, and monographs published
- ▶ CETAF is a partner in two EU funded projects and two multidisciplinary projects are launched
- ▶ 90% of the journals of our member institutions are digitized and digitally available
- ▶ CETAF undertakes a taxonomic expertise gap-analysis and initiates a collaborative taxonomy-based initiative

Science policy and key performance indexes

- ▶ CETAF position papers and statements are published regularly
- ▶ CETAF outcomes and positions are endorsed by all CETAF members
- ▶ CETAF has a consultancy role within European decision making mechanisms
- ▶ CETAF participates in the development of the European Research Agenda concerning natural history sciences
- ▶ CETAF actively supports natural history scientists via its CETAF recommendations and guidelines

Natural history collection management and collection access

- ▶ 10% of the 1.5 billion specimens in our natural history collections are databased, digitized and digitally available, and scientific collection visits increase by 10%
- ▶ CETAF best practice and common collections policies are implemented in the majority of member institutions
- ▶ all CETAF institutions have self-assessed collections
- ▶ five collaborative collecting, surveys or field-work initiatives are undertaken

Biodiversity informatics and information technologies

- ▶ CETAF interoperable standards for biodiversity data and natural history specimen databasing are adopted in 80% of CETAF institutions
- ▶ CETAF standard identifiers are adopted in 80% of CETAF institutions
- ▶ digital data curation guidelines are produced and adopted
- ▶ digital storage capacity infrastructure is established within the Consortium

Taxonomy training and e-learning

- ▶ collaborative training capacity and infrastructure established, incorporating at least 50% of the CETAF members
- ▶ training and e-learning offers by CETAF members are increased by 50%
- ▶ two collaborative training and e-learning initiatives are undertaken
- ▶ a taxonomy training and e-learning programme for Europe is established

Communication, outreach and societal relevance

- ▶ five communications on natural history collections and associated research are published
- ▶ CETAF organizes four symposia on natural science issues
- ▶ two collaborative exhibitions on natural science research are produced
- ▶ two citizen science or crowd-sourcing initiatives are undertaken

We seek to achieve these targets by supporting the synergies within CETAF and between CETAF member institutions: **building on 20 years of successful collaboration, advocacy for natural history collections and leadership in the natural sciences within and across Europe.**



Pandinus imperator
Koch, 1841,
3D Photogrammetry
model by A. Mathys
©RMCA 2016

A composite picture
of visible and UV
lights. It is exposed
by flash on the left
hand side of the
picture and by 2 UV
365 nm on the
right hand side.

SIGNATORIES



Natural History Museum Vienna

AUSTRIA



Upper Austrian State Museum - Biology Centre

AUSTRIA



Botanic Garden Meise

BELGIUM



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

BELGIUM

Guido GRYSEELS
Directeur



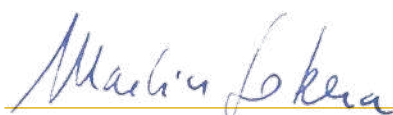
Royal Museum for Central Africa

BELGIUM



Bulgarian Consortium (Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research and National Museum of Natural History in Sofia)

BULGARIA



Czech Consortium (National Museum, Charles University and Institute of Botany CAS)

CZECH REPUBLIC



Natural History Museum of Denmark

DENMARK



Estonian Consortium (Estonian University of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum, Tallinn University of Technology and University of Tartu)

ESTONIA



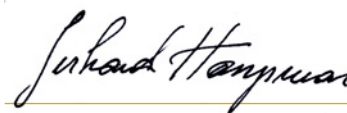
Finnish Museum of Natural History

FINLAND



National Museum of Natural History

FRANCE



Bavarian Natural History Collections

GERMANY



Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin

GERMANY



Natural History Museum Berlin

GERMANY



**NOR e. V. Association of German Natural History Museums
in the North Sea and Baltic Sea Region**

GERMANY



Senckenberg Natural History Museum

GERMANY



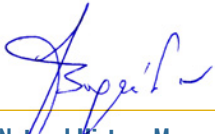
Stuttgart State Museum of Natural History

GERMANY



Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig

GERMANY



Natural History Museum of Crete

GREECE



Hungarian Natural History Museum

HUNGARY



Italian Consortium (Natural History Museum of Genova and Natural History Museum - University of Florence)

ITALY



Naturalis Biodiversity Center

NETHERLANDS



Natural History Museum - University of Oslo

NORWAY

Dyrektor



Dr hab. Tomasz Mazgajski

Museum and Institute of Zoology - Polish Academy of Sciences

POLAND



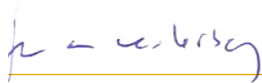
Slovakian Consortium: Slovak National Taxonomic Facility - NaTAF

SLOVAKIA



Spanish Consortium: CSIC (National Museum of Natural Sciences and Royal Botanic Garden of Madrid)

SPAIN



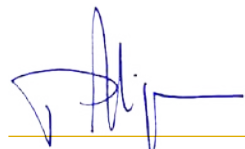
Swedish Museum of Natural History

SWEDEN



Gothenburg Consortium (Gothenburg Botanic Garden, Gothenburg Natural History Museum and Gothenburg University)

SWEDEN




Geneva Consortium (Conservatory and Botanic Gardens and Natural History Museum of the City of Geneva)

SWITZERLAND



Natural History Museum London

UNITED KINGDOM



Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

UNITED KINGDOM



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Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities AISBL

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Micro-CT scan of an *Agapantha* flower head,
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