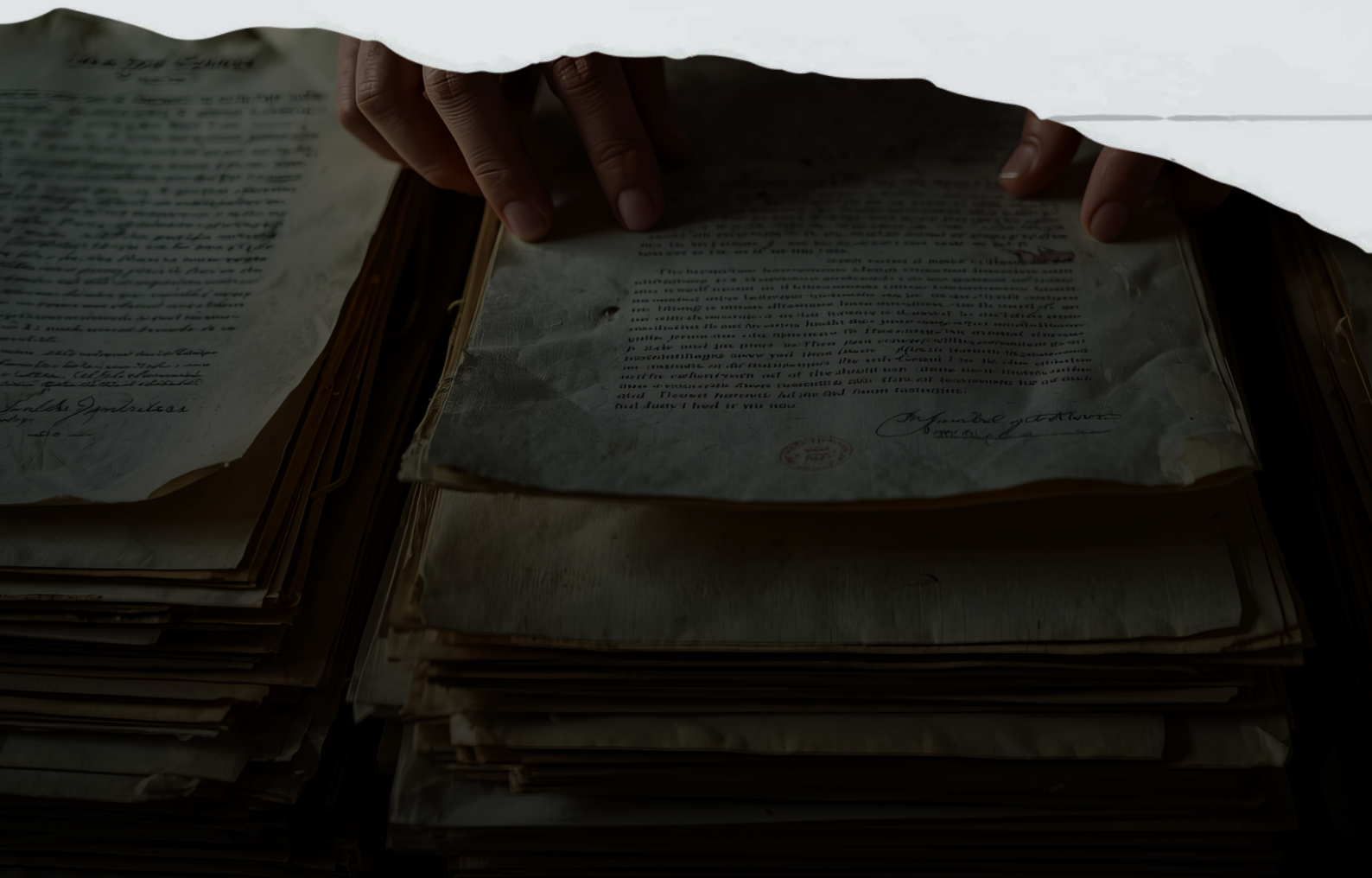


CETAF STATEMENT ON

REPATRIATION

Commitment to ethical and responsible practice



CETAF statement on Repatriation: Commitment to ethical and responsible practice

CETAF member institutions commit to ethical engagement and dialogue regarding collections shaped by colonial histories and other contexts of unequal power. We recognise that scientific value cannot be viewed separately from the conditions under which collections were acquired and the responsibilities that arise from this history.

CETAF acknowledges that some natural science specimens were removed from their places and communities of origin through practices that would not be considered legitimate today. Under current legal and ethical frameworks, such collections may be subject to restitution.

CETAF calls for open, respectful, and proactive dialogue between collecting institutions and countries and communities of origin, grounded in transparency and the recognition of historical injustice and power asymmetries. Where cooperation or shared benefit is sought, it must be defined by, or jointly with, the communities concerned and cannot presume continued institutional authority over collections subject to restitution.

CETAF remains committed to responsible provenance research, ethical practice, and constructive engagement that supports equitable relationships and ensures that scientific work contributes to society in ways that are just, accountable, and respectful.

CETAF recognises that human remains require distinct ethical consideration and are subject to separate legal and professional standards, which prioritise the wishes of descendant communities.