



CETAF statement for the sustainability of taxonomic knowledge and expertise

Brussels, 14 April, 2023

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) stands as the instrumental agreement that fosters the urgency of jointly tackling biodiversity-related challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, to pave the way to reaching the global vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050.

The monitoring framework for realizing the GBF requires the establishment of adequate indicators and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and reviewing implementation; the provision of necessary financial resources for implementation; and the development of strategic frameworks for capacity development as well as technical and scientific cooperation.

While all these tools will facilitate the achievement of the four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 vision for biodiversity, and the accomplishment of the 23 action-oriented global targets until 2030, all Parties are urged to take immediate action.

The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, CETAF, is a unique European organisation gathering knowledge and expertise on natural science collections and taxonomy. CETAF provides the reliable, reproducible and accurate scientific information needed, at the scale and complexity required, to support the methods or mechanisms that will be needed to undertake habitat preservation and/or restoration, the sustainable use of species and the conservation of biological resources. Taxonomic knowledge will be essential in creating a harmonised and inclusive spatial planning of biodiversity use and preservation.

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CETAF, as a European research-driven organisation, **fully supports the vision of the GBF** and is committed to contributing to the achievement of its 2030 targets and 2050 goals. CETAF, as the voice of natural science collection holding institutions across Europe, **understands that taxonomy and taxonomic knowledge is at the core** of all and any actions focused on monitoring ecosystem health, biodiversity or threatened species. In addition to their importance for taxonomy, reference collections of specimens hold information that provides the baseline data needed to understand planetary changes in biodiversity.

CETAF **reiterates the importance of defining policy monitoring and indicators** on the basis of solid biodiversity information, underpinned by field observation activities and research of taxonomic specialists. Moreover, the integration of taxonomic expertise into the development of indicators and policy actions ensures that the results of monitoring are scientifically sound. The support of scientific endeavours that results in species description, species identification and the systematic observation of species in the field will be essential to monitor well policy implementation.

CETAF **will dedicate efforts** to strategically address the different dimensions involved in halting the expected rates of biodiversity loss affecting life on Earth and assuring the sustainable use of our natural resources.

To that end,

CETAF advocates for the building of an enlarged and sustained taxonomic expert pool across Europe to describe and understand biodiversity, with a long-term vision, that ensures the availability of taxonomic knowledge in support of biodiversity observation and policy monitoring.

CETAF claims for specifically and distinctively dedicated resources under the GBF to establish, maintain and ensure the sustainability of the taxonomic expertise required to do the observation of species and ecosystems in the field. These stand as critical pillars for further implementing robust policy monitoring that drive scientifically based decision-making processes.

CETAF calls for a political and financial commitment, through European and national programmes and initiatives, to support the research undertaken by taxonomists as an essential component in the achievement of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals.

