



**CETAF** aisbl



# 2023

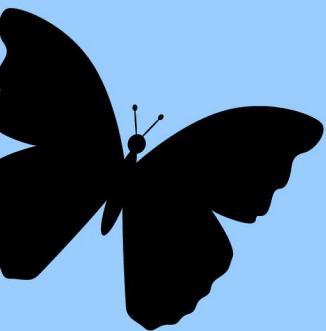
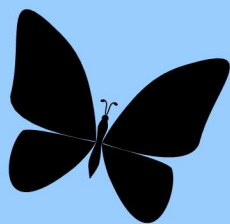
# ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING TAXONOMY AND COLLECTION-BASED RESEARCH  
AT THE HEART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

**1.5**BILLIONSPECIMENS**5000+**SCIENTISTS**75+**INSTITUTIONS**25+**COUNTRIES**ONE**COMMUNITY


[www.cetaf.org](http://www.cetaf.org)





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How our world has changed! When I became director of Naturalis in Leiden in 2011, biodiversity was still a word hardly anyone knew. My communications department pressed me to refrain from using it and speak about nature or species. And now, we cannot read a newspaper or watch TV without hearing it. Biodiversity has become mainstream and has positioned itself center stage next to its older sibling, climate change.

When the scenery we work in changes drastically, we must adapt accordingly. It is nice to be the center of attention, but it also gives us the responsibility to act! There is so much to do, and so much we can do!

The recently approved Nature Restoration Law, a pivotal legislation for protecting and restoring biodiversity, hinges on the effective monitoring of biodiversity in our countries. Equally significant is the implementation of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the new global framework for Biodiversity. These are all major milestones that underscore our commitment to biodiversity conservation.

This report looks back at last year, 2023, in which our network has grown in breadth, depth, and incisiveness of action. It was the year our flagship project sailed, the EU-funded initiative TETTRIs. It was the year when a new Executive Committee was elected during the General Assembly in Vienna in November 2023. We all owe a great deal of thanks to the members of the former EC who worked very hard to strengthen the organization, fostering its relevance and consolidating its activities. We thank the new EC members who have volunteered their services to build on these results to make CETAF stronger again, and we thank our working groups, who are the living souls of our organization.

We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis, and that darkens our mood, but CETAF has never been more vital and committed to playing its role in bending the curve!



*Edwin Van Huis*  
**President of CETAF**

# Foreword

# WHOWEARE



Courtesy of RBINS

The **Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)** is the unique organisation of its type in Europe and beyond. A comprehensive and solid unity that comprises 77 institutions from across Europe represented by 44 CETAF members. They are Europe's leading natural science museums, natural history museums, botanic gardens and research centres from 25 European countries that curate, host and manage biological and geological collections that jointly sum 1.5 billion specimens representing almost 80% of the biodiversity described worldwide. CETAF institutions and their researchers are custodians of this irreplaceable natural heritage that facilitates fundamental geodiversity and biodiversity research, particularly in taxonomy and systematics and enables ground-breaking discoveries across a broad set of fields of science.

Based in Brussels (Belgium), the General Secretariat represents the CETAF organisation at European and international level, advocating for the recognition of the key role of taxonomy in tackling urgent challenges related to our natural resources, while promoting the collections and opening innovative pathways for expanding their applications. The Secretariat creates partnerships and collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders, and thus provides a platform for the community to speak with a unified voice and have a stronger impact in Europe and globally. Moreover, it also facilitates practical and logistical support in the development of community services and initiatives from building the taxonomic expertise capacity, to the digital transformation of collections and the priceless data they contain.

**77** ↗  
INSTITUTIONS

**44** ↗  
REPRESENTATIVES

**25** ↗  
COUNTRIES



**07** The General Assembly

**09** The Executive Committee

**11** The General Secretariat



# Unique organisation of taxonomic institutions

*Ensuring the sustainable performance of CETAF, through its efficient governance structures.*

The CETAF organisation is governed by three bodies, the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat, each with their own responsibilities and mandates to jointly manage and move the organisation forward.

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the primary governing body of CETAF, comprising representatives from its member institutions, that meets twice a year to set strategic direction and ensure alignment with its mission and long-term vision, approve budgets and accounts, and make major decisions for the future of CETAF.

In 2023, two General Assemblies were organised. The 53rd General Assembly (CETAF53) took place in Sweden (9-10 May), hosted by the Gothenburg Consortium - Natural History Museum of Gothenburg, Herbarium of the University of Gothenburg and Botanical Garden of Gothenburg – the latter celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Later in the year, the 54th General Assembly (CETAF54) gathered the CETAF members in Vienna, Austria, hosted by the Natural History Museum (28-29 November).

During those two-day events, representatives from CETAF members shared experiences, outcomes and achievements, planned actions ahead in terms of instrumental aspects (from collections digitization to data standards, training and capacity building to the development of new innovative tools and services and were updated on initiatives and projects undertaken through the Secretariat, especially focused on raising awareness of the importance of taxonomy in and across Europe.



CETAF General Assembly, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2023

Throughout 2023, further advancing the role of CETAF in the international context, especially under the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), has been a critical component of the CETAF activity that streamlines the support to taxonomy and integration of these scientific objectives and outcomes into both, political and funding mechanisms. Invited speakers from different Directorate Generals (DG) of the European Commission such as Gilles Doignon (DG Research & Innovation) and Vujadin Kovacevic (DG Environment), were hand-by-hand with representatives from European and international organisations including Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa +), all playing instrumental roles in the biodiversity-related global arena.

The CETAF General Assemblies aimed to produce key results to strengthen the uptake of taxonomy as a fundamental science for biodiversity conservation and facilitate the science-policy dialogue. The CETAF *Policy Brief on Taxonomy*, the *Vienna Statement* on the importance of taxonomic research, and the *Gothenburg Declaration* on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, among others, clearly reflect the solid, unified and comprehensive approach of the community toward those challenges that are critical for ensuring a sustainable future for Nature and the human well-being.



CETAF General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, November 2023



# THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is the decision-making body of CETAF that provides the strategic leadership and oversight for the organisation. This includes key decisions regarding the direction and priorities of CETAF, to warrant that the organisation's goals and objectives are met. Furthermore, it is responsible for safeguarding effective governance, resource management, and providing support and guidance to the Secretariat to ensure timely and successful implementation of the agreements reached by the General Assembly. The Executive Committee works closely with the Executive Director and the Secretariat team to align strategic vision and performance, identify major challenges and propose actions, collaborations, initiatives and pathways to support and promote taxonomy and the taxonomic community.

A new Executive Committee, elected in November 2023, will drive CETAF action during the upcoming four years, 2024-2027, under the new strategy that will consolidate and escalate the endeavours initiated with the CETAF Strategy 2015-2025, in light of the current challenges and global landscape for biodiversity and in alignment with the European Green Deal and the Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The outgoing Executive Committee provided a smooth handover after their unwavering dedication to advancing the strategic goals of CETAF over the last years and rooted in what was successfully achieved. A special thanks went to the now former CETAF President, Michelle J. Price, for being a constant source of inspiration for the community as well as the main ambassador for CETAF in Europe and globally.



CETAF Executive Committee 2019-2023

## CETAF Executive Comittee 2023-2026

**Edwin Van Huis**  
President  
Naturalis, Leiden, NL



**Jana Hoffmann**  
Vice-President  
MfN, Berlin, DE



**Eva Häffner**  
Secretary  
BGBM, Berlin, DE



**François Dusolier**  
Treasurer  
MNHN, Paris, FR



## Ordinary Members

**Stefan Örgard**  
NHM, Gothenburg, SE



**Carole Paleco**  
RBINS, Brussels, BE



**Gergely Baboczsay**  
HNHN, Budapest, HU



**Gila Kahila Bar-Gal**  
NNHC, Jerusalem, IL



# THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat acts as the organisation's engine, responsible for implementing the daily work while consolidating the CETAF community's strategic positioning under the General Assembly's umbrella and the guidance and support received from the Executive Committee. The staff structure of the Secretariat reflects its main areas of activity including advocacy and engagement, support to research through the coordination of projects, expertise, communication and the general administration.

The Secretariat intensively worked during 2023 to widen its reach, compile and strengthen distributed resources, unite forces and provide a comprehensive picture of natural history collection-holding institutions in Europe. In that sense, CETAF is an ever-growing community that collates interest from institutions aiming to join this active, committed and unique organisation. In 2023, the University of Navarra became a new member through its Department of Environmental Biology and started to participate and contribute to the joint endeavours.

Additionally, discussions were held with several other institutions across Europe, in Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania and Ireland, which are all expected to be welcomed to the network during 2024.

The year 2023 was also the termination of a critical turning point for CETAF and a compilation of the successes achieved during the last ten years constitute a solid foundation to tackle new ambitions. The report *"2013-2023, a transformational decade for CETAF"* presented at CETAF54, displayed the intense, successful and prominent work carried out by CETAF in a variety of areas that have allowed the wide recognition of CETAF as a strategic partner. Following the path open and to enable the organisation to realise the new strategic aspirations for the community, a new business model for CETAF was discussed and approved to support the further development and sustainability of the Secretariat that will be guided by the new Executive Committee, elected every four years.

# 1996



**FOUNDATION OF CETAF**



**THE FIRST  
CETAF LOGO**

# CETAF General Secretariat Team



**Ana Casino**  
Executive Director



**Laura Tilley**  
Project Coordinator



**Marko Lovric**  
Advocacy & Engagement  
Officer



**Alessandro Marchi**  
Communications Officer



**Marta Leon  
Monedero**  
TETTRIs Project  
Manager



**Charlotte  
Mestanogullari**  
Operations Assistant

**2009** ↙

**CETAF BECOMES AN  
AISBL**

**2012** ↙

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

**2016** ↙

**20TH ANNIVERSARY.  
MEMBERS ARE NOW 33**



14 Collaborative work of the community

19 Development of CETAF initiatives and projects



# How CETAF operates

*Facilitating the creation and development of services for the community, through multiple initiatives and actions*

# COLLABORATIVE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY

The community experts are gathered around Working Groups (WG) that tackle specific areas of interest, promote instrumental pathways and drive progress to address challenges encountered in the field of taxonomy. The working groups operate independently, though strongly linked in cross-cutting issues, and adapt their work programme to their needs and goals. They present their work to the General Assembly on an annual basis, while the working group leaders meet several times a year to exchange experiences and discuss topics of common interest.

## Earth Sciences group

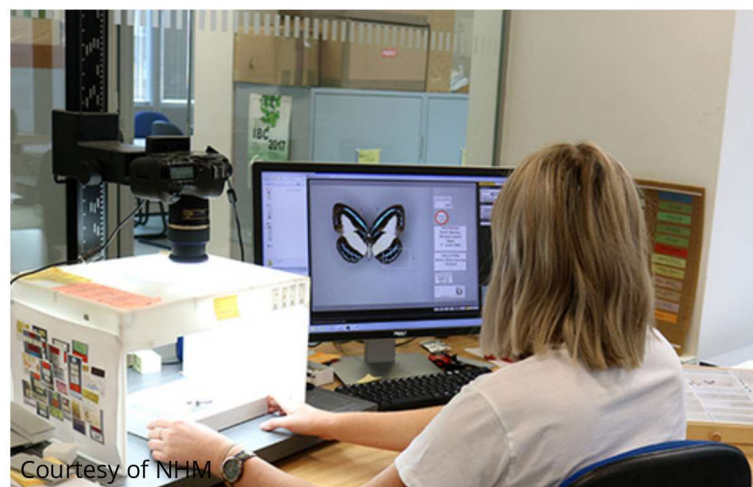
Coordinator: Laura Tilley (CETAF GS, Brussels, BE)

The Earth Sciences WG aims at bringing visibility to the earth science collections to understanding and forecasting current and future environmental and biodiversity issues, based on the use of geological collections and their data. During 2023, the group worked intensively in the improvement of data standards and collection databases, and compiled best practices regarding curation, legislation on imports and exports, fieldwork, preparation and restoration of these geological collections that include fossils, minerals and rocks. The group dedicated great part of its work to consolidate the foundations for further developing the portal GeoCASE for geological collections, identifying categories and feeding pipelines, and establishing a metadata schema that would support the integration of those collections into a hub of information supported by (distributed) sources of information.

## Digitisation group

Coordinator: Heimo Rainer (NHM, Vienna, AUT)

To increase the capacity of the community to digitise collections, including specimens, libraries and archives, and develop standards for this digitisation is the main goal of the Digitisation WG. This group works closely with the community's Research Infrastructure DiSSCo (Distributed System of Scientific Collections), which is currently in its transition phase towards constituting the legal entity, an ERIC, that will operate and manage the infrastructure (foreseen for 2026). During 2023, chairship of the group changed and under the new guidance the basics were initiated with the distribution of experiences to foster synergies in digitising natural history collections and towards the building of a common knowledge base for digitisation activities.



## Legislation and Regulations group

Coordinator: Dirk Neumann (LIB, Hamburg, DE)

CETAF has been especially active in *making the voice of the community be heard in the development of certain rules and legislation measures* that are critical for the smooth and efficient operation of taxonomists in their daily scientific work. Through the Legislation and Regulations Group, the CETAF Code of Conduct on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) was recognized by the European Commission back in 2019 as the first (and still sole one) Best Practice to implement Nagoya Protocol measures. The group has continued during 2023 providing advice and training on ABS to members but also to partners in projects such as Biodiversity Genomics Europe (BGE), in handling sampling and accessing resources in the field.



It has also dedicated efforts to specifically address Digital Sequencing Information (DSI)-related legislation by participating in international experts' groups and providing statements to underline the specifics of the CETAF community in this policy's development, as the Notification 2023-03 addressed to the Secretariat of CBD in this regard, focused on the non-monetary benefits for DSI use.

## European Projects Advisory group

Coordinator: Ana Casino and Marko Lovric (CETAF GS, Brussels, BE)

The European Projects Advisory Group works on *sourcing European funding opportunities for our institutions*. It collates information on EU funding opportunities and coordinates its transmission to CETAF members in collaboration with CETAF General Secretariat. On its hand, CETAF attended key events for EU project funding (e.g. Horizon Info Days) and further engaged with relevant EU bodies (DG ENV, DG RTD). The group serves as a platform of information exchange to facilitate the development of joint projects including, but not limited to, research projects (i.e. through Horizon Europe, COST, Marie Curie actions), and environmental projects, among others. During 2023, it developed the National Contact Points (NCP) Guidelines, to provide essential guidelines on how to activate and maintain fluent contact with their EC national contact points (NCPs). It started to set the ground for developing a comprehensive database on European Commission funding calls, that will be an essential source of information for members on where to find the right match for their respective initiatives and projects.

## Training and e-Learning in Taxonomy group

Coordinator: Iasmi Stathi (NHM UoC, GR)

The CETAF Training and e-Learning in Taxonomy Group works to develop a vision for e-learning within CETAF and to provide a Virtual Learning Environment around the discipline of Taxonomy, towards fostering *capacity building for online education on taxonomy*. It does this through exchanging experiences and good practices in internet-based education and investigating the possibilities for developing a system of training certificates and recognition at EU level for the educational activities of CETAF members. The group coordinator stands also as leader of the Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST). During 2023, the group intensified the work to collect and develop new courses and identify the critical pillars of the strategic planning to foster building DEST.



## Collections group

Coordinator: Luc Willemse (Naturalis, Leiden, NL)

With a clear focus on *collections management*, the CETAF Collections Group (CCG) aims to build a sustainable network of curators and collection managers of European natural history collections. It works to improve interoperability and harmonisation, providing training, fostering efficiency, improving accessibility and supporting preservation. The group cooperates with other initiatives and organisations, such as the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections-SPNHC, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility-GBIF, the International Council of Museum-ICOM and Research Infrastructures, e.g. DiSSCo (for biodiversity collections) and ELIXIR (for life-science information). During 2023, the leader of the group has dedicated tireless work to coordinate the activities of the different WGs and find synergies across them. On its side, this Collections group has started to prepare blueprints for Collection Space and Collection Move, as a pilot that could be replicated for other topics of interest.

## Information Science & Technology Commission

Coordinator: Anton Güntsch (BGBM, Berlin, DE)

The Information Science & Technology Commission (ISTC) facilitates dialogue and collaboration between the IT departments of CETAF member and non-member institutions to ensure *implementation of technical services* for interoperability through the development of common infrastructures and standards. The group works towards compatibility of components for digital information exchange and sharing, through procedural changes and adaptations to IT systems. It creates common protocols to be followed and endorsed by the community and fosters the adoption of new systems and innovative pathways to advance automatization through AI and machine-learning processes. Concretely, during 2023 the group investigated how to model different types of information and identified how to collaborate and boost interoperability with citizen science platforms.



## Biodiversity Monitoring group

Coordinator: David Ott (LIB, Bonn, DE)

Thanks to the CETAF Biodiversity Monitoring Working Group (BiodivMG) the CETAF *expertise is fostered to be used*. It contributes to the effort to continuously document biodiversity change and investigate determinants of population decline to halt biodiversity loss in Europe, as well as to develop solutions for ecological applications that are highly relevant for society. Through state-of-the-art technologies, the CETAF BiodivMG creates an inventory of our rich European biodiversity with a focus on individual species and implements large-scale and fine-grained monitoring programs. In 2023, the group was dedicated to evaluating the scope, and redefining working paths.

## e-Publishing group

Coordinator: Laurence Benichou (MNHM Paris, FR) Isabelle Gerard (Africamuseum, Tervuren, BE)

The e-Publishing Working Group addresses the need to *support scientific online publishing and open access*.

Its work plan aims to network and share experiences, organise joint workshops on relevant themes and technical developments including impact factors, statistics that show the publishing activities of CETAF members, analysis of the institutional policies, print on demand solutions, and Open Access. The group worked in 2023 on better identifying Copyright and data issues, defining the workflows required to publish XML, building first based prospective for publications and also describing the obstacles and technical requirements to create digital accessible knowledge. Their activity in general is closely linked to the European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT) and works to enlarge, sustain and promote this journal as a community endorsed initiative. EJT is a refereed, international, fully electronic Open Access journal in descriptive taxonomy, covering subjects in zoology (including entomology), botany (in its broadest sense), and palaeontology. EJT-papers must be original and adhere to high scientific (content) and technical (language, artwork, etc.) standards. EJT is based on the principle that making research freely available supports and encourages a greater global exchange of knowledge.



Courtesy of RBINS

## Scientific Research group

Coordinator: Gila Kahila (NNHC HUJ, Jerusalem, IL) and Thierry Bourgoïn (MNHN, Paris, FR)

For *coordinating the research agenda* of CETAF institutions the CETAF Scientific Research Group was established, with a focus on strategic issues and political positioning under the main scientific and research frameworks as the European Research Area (ERA). The first draft was elaborated to set the basis for further development in 2024 in alignment with the new CETAF Strategy 2025-2030.

## Communications group

Coordinator: Alessandro Marchi (CETAF GS, Brussels, BE)

The Communications Working Group is devoted to *sharing expertise from across our community*. Experts in communication discuss emerging topics, challenges and brainstorm together on how to better keep everyone informed, internally within CETAF, and the best channels to position the community also externally.

The group supports other CETAF working groups, brings visibility to CETAF initiatives and projects, develops the common branding and shares good practices. The year 2023 was dedicated to reinforcing the identity of CETAF, through a corporate video, to present CETAF in a nutshell in an attractive and synthesised format, and by refreshing the corporate image to establish a more identifiable common matrix behind CETAF products and materials. The group aimed to disseminate this approach across members to support the joint outcomes of the research community, and boost collaborative work as a way to increase the collective impact and widen its reach.

The activity of CETAF strongly relies on the assets and expertise held by its members. Thanks to the volunteer work of the researchers gathered around CETAF, the community benefits of breakthrough actions, innovative solutions and substantial advances in regard to the management and use of collections and the information extracted from them.



Courtesy of RBINS

# DEVELOPMENT OF CETAF INITIATIVES AND SERVICES

During the year 2023, CETAF contributed to the enhancement and further development of certain critical tools and services for the community, namely the training platform, the GeoCASE portal and the CETAF Registry of Collections.

## CETAF-DEST, the training platform for taxonomy

The CETAF-DEST online platform aims to become the tool for taxonomy training and capacity building. During 2023, its strategic framework was outlined and discussed with the CETAF Executive Committee to ensure uptake and coordination, following the increasing interest of members for activating, populating and disseminating the portal. The final aim of CETAF-DEST is to become the reference for training in taxonomy-related topics and therefore, provide this service to the broadest community possible. To that end, it started to align with TETTRIs and other specific initiatives, such as the Pollinators Academy (from SPRING project) and the Knowledge modules developed under BiCIKL.



A total of six new courses have been deployed under CETAF-DEST this year. Publicity of the CETAF courses has been largely improved with an increased outreach to targeted audiences.

## The comprehensive CETAF Registry of collections

The CETAF Registry of Collections is a comprehensive database that catalogues the vast biological and geological collections held by institutions that are members of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF). This registry serves as a central resource for researchers, curators, and the public, providing detailed information about the specimens housed within these collections, including their taxonomy, geographic origin, and other relevant metadata. There is continued progress on the development of workflows for data provision. During 2023, the Secretariat was dedicated to categorise, deploy and finally share with members, the necessary mechanisms (in the format of Google Forms) to collect data, with agreed standards (Latimer Core), harmonised with the support of a comprehensive metadata schema and FAIR in the identifiers used. Further developments will be made under the umbrella of DiSSCo Transition project, since the final outcome needs to become the accurate and reliable source of information for DiSSCo, in terms of institutions, collections, facilities, expertise and other assets.



## The GeoCAsE Portal for geological collections

GeoCAsE stands for Geoscience Collections Access Service. It is a community collaborative initiative focused on creating a comprehensive and standardised database of geological and paleontological specimens. It aims to facilitate the sharing and accessibility of information about geological specimens held in Europe and worldwide.

During 2023, a dedicated workshop on GeoCAsE was held at the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, to address the implementation of workflows, the inception of existing data, the sustainability of the tool and the maintenance of the supporting infrastructure. Additionally a central instance of the software for harvesting data to the portal called BioCAsE was installed on to the CETAF server. This work will ease data provision for institutions that have limited technical support to install the software themselves.

## In support of new generations of taxonomists, the E-SCoRe Award

The CETAF E-SCoRe Award is a prize to recognise and incentivise younger scientists to develop their scientific collection-based research. The 2023 edition was the fourth occurrence of the e-SCoRe. This time the prize was dedicated to PhD students and there were a considerable number of applications, 23 from 18 different countries.

On the 22nd of May, CETAF announced Lara Sophie Dey as the winner, thanks to her research on the speckled buzzing grasshoppers. Sophie Dey contributed to the CETAF website by presenting her study and was awarded during a ceremony held during the 54th General Assembly. At the same time, the 5th edition of E-SCoRe, to support young scientists in the field of taxonomy and systematic biology, was launched.

During CETAF54 it was also the time to celebrate the E-SCoRe Award, a prize that CETAF dedicates to the young generation of scientists in the field of taxonomy.



Lara Sophie Dey, E-SCoRe 2023 winner



**22** TETTRIs

**23** BGE

**24** BiCIKL

**25** DiSSCo Prepare

**25** DiSSCo Transition

**26** Synthesys+

**27** MOBILISE

**27** ENVRI FAiR

## Participation in European Projects

*During 2023, several DiSSCo-linked projects finalised, as it is the case of DiSSCo Prepare, SYNTHESYS+ and MOBILISE, same as others related to the environmental infrastructures (ENVRI-FAiR); several achieved its full speed (as BGE and TETTRIs) or just started their journey (as DiSSCo Transition).*

## Transforming European Taxonomy through Training, Research and Innovation - TETTRIs



<https://tettris.eu>

TETTRIs is a 42-month project that started in December 2022 with a budget of €6 mln (financed under HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01-02) that is co-coordinated by the Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels and CETAF. It aims to bring about a significant transformation in the field of taxonomy to address biodiversity changes by enhancing the capacity for taxonomic research and transferring critical scientific knowledge to key societal stakeholders. In advancing the field of taxonomy and beyond, TETTRIs will implement several technical and systems innovations developed by consortium partners and validated in collaboration with target groups such as citizen scientists, through a very novel instrument, a cascade grant mechanism that involves third-party projects in the deployment in the ground of TETTRIs developments.

The TETTRIs was kicked off in January 2023 to set the stage for the work ahead. During 2023, ample progress has already been made across all work packages, with several deliverables successfully submitted. Major achievements until the end of 2023 include the Roadmap for reference collections, a prototype for processes and the algorithms for image and sound recognition of species, the Digital training knowledge database, a prototype of a web platform for integrative species delimitation analysis, a strategy for mapping local taxonomies, the back-end of the marketplace for e-services and experts together with the supporting helpdesk. Many other undertakings were run for widely disseminating and awareness raising of taxonomy, namely the organisation of two Stakeholders Labs, the launching of the programme "Taxonomists in Residence", and the active participation in events and conferences.

### CETAF Contribution

CETAF is the Technical Coordinator and leads several tasks and WPs notably concerning stakeholder engagement, training and communications, through concepts such as Stakeholders Lab, the European Agency for Taxonomy and the Taxonomy Recognition Day, apart from the management of the project on itself. It is deeply involved in several technical tasks aiming to develop innovative taxonomic tools, such as the marketplace for experts and e-services, and the reference collections as an instrumental tool for biodiversity identification and monitoring. CETAF also leads the implementation of the grants for third-party validation projects, to transfer taxonomic knowledge to practitioners in the field, close to hotspots and protected areas across Europe, for testing and validating the critical outcomes of TETTRIs. A wide dissemination of the call for proposals ended with a huge number of initiatives, up to 53, from which only 12 could be awarded, showing the increasing interest in non-professional groups to learn from taxonomists, to be tool-up and be engaged in on-the-ground projects as a mean to biodiversity preservation and sustainable management. The CETAF Executive Director chairs several governance bodies, including the General Assembly, the Executive Board, as well as the two external expert boards, the Community Implementation Board and the Scientific Advisory Board. Finally, CETAF is very involved in the work package fully dedicated to Ethics (for which an external Ethics Advisor has been nominated), and the relationship with Gender and Diversity co-Champions.



PARTNERS



BUDGET



YEARS



## Biodiversity Genomics Europe - BGE



<https://biodiversitygenomics.eu>

The Biodiversity Genomics Europe (BGE) project (funded under HE-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-01 with a total budget of €20 mln), led by Naturalis Biodiversity Center, NL, and with a lifetime of 3.5 years, aims to accelerate the use of genomic science to enhance understanding of biodiversity by bringing together two networks – the International Barcode of Life - iBOL - (which focuses on DNA barcoding) and the European Reference Genome Atlas – ERGA - (with focus on genome sequencing). Genomic science in biodiversity is becoming a data-driven endeavour in parallel with the developments in DiSSCo and other stakeholders like THE International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC), the BARCODE OF LIFE DATA (BOLD) systems, the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and other Infrastructures such as ELIXIR in the field of life sciences.

In BGE, iBOL Europe aims to build the European hub of the iBOL global initiative, to focus on the monitoring of biodiversity using DNA for rapid identification and monitoring of species. This European node is intended to gather experts and institutions working in DNA techniques and applications.

### CETAF Contribution

CETAF leads the Policy and Ethics work package which largely involves coordinating the development of a policy assessment tool to facilitate the genomics and DNA barcoding community in navigating policy requirements related to their common work activities. It will provide walkthrough guidance for users, allowing them to see what policies link to the activities to be conducted in the realm of Genomic DNA resource usage, it will also provide a repository of external policy resources (Guidance, Best practices, Policy documents).

Beyond this main task, CETAF actively participates in tasks on establishing the new European DNA barcoding community called iBOL Europe where it ensures that the DNA and Genomics community is well linked with the taxonomic community. Among the over 100 members from 29 countries of this growing network, most of the CETAF members are already included. CETAF GS will work for the correct alignment of activities, for supporting a successful operation of the node and for an efficient merge of taxonomy and DNA objectives. Additionally, CETAF also plays a key role in developing BGE's engagement and exploitation plan.

**33**



PARTNERS

**€ 20M**



BUDGET

**3.5**



YEARS

## Biodiversity Community Integrated Knowledge Library - BiCIKL



<https://bicikl-project.eu>

The 3-year project titled Biodiversity Community Integrated Knowledge Library - BiCIKL, funded under the Call H2020-INFRAIA-2018-2020, started in May 2021 and will end by May 2024. With the resources provided by an overall budget of €5 mln, it aims to improve how biodiversity data are identified, linked, integrated and re-used across the research lifecycle. By doing so, BiCIKL helps to increase the transparency, trustworthiness and efficiency of the entire research ecosystem by implementing open science practices and using FAIR and interconnected data. BiCIKL will provide new methods and workflows for integrated access to harvesting, liberating, linking, accessing, and re-using biodiversity data, including data from the literature towards a comprehensive global biodiversity knowledge graph.

The new Biodiversity Knowledge Hub (BKH), as a key outcome of BiCIKL, is a one-stop portal for understanding the complex but increasingly interconnected landscape of biodiversity research infrastructures in Europe. The BKH acts as a knowledge broker for users who wish to navigate and access the sources of open and FAIR biodiversity data, guidelines, tools and services and will be maintained after the end of the project hosted by the Research Infrastructure LifeWATCH.

### **CETAF Contribution**

CETAF leads the work package on stakeholder engagement and outreach, especially in the context of the BKH platform, and coordinates the communication and dissemination activities. As such, CETAF supported the organisation of four expert round tables in 2023, on different topics: Semantic publishing, wikidata supporting molecular research data, molecular data repositories and the inclusion of phylogenetic trees into the GBIF data model.

On the other hand, CETAF oversees the development of the BKH training programme, a Moodle-based capacity-building platform supporting the new users of the BKH facilitating the access to biodiversity data interlinked through the published literature and between the data classes. The resulting set of courses also include advanced publishing tools that enable users to gain access to the rich publication metadata and the semantic structure. Once completed, the courses will be featured on the BKH website.

**15**



PARTNERS

**€5M**



BUDGET

**3**



YEARS



## DiSSCo Prepare DPP



<https://www.dissco.eu/dissco-prepare/>

Under the coordination of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, DiSSCo Prepare (DPP) was a 3-year project with a budget of €4 mln funded under the Call INFRADEV-02-2019-2020 (EU Horizon 2020). It was the primary vehicle through which the DiSSCo Research Infrastructure (RI) raised its overall maturity to facilitate implementing construction from 2023 onwards. DiSSCo Prepare had two primary goals:

- Improve DiSSCo's overall Implementation Readiness Level: its ability to execute construction and effect-related actions based on clear, actionable guidelines with minimum risk across five critical dimensions: scientific, technical, organisational, financial and data readiness.
- Deliver the DiSSCo Construction Master Plan, as a cookbook to provide practical guidance in the following phases of DiSSCo building.

The end of DPP, along with two other DiSSCo-linked projects (SYNTHESIS+ and COST Action Mobilise), was marked by the large DiSSCo Futures event in Brussels (9-10 February 2023), co-organised by the Coordinating institutions of the 3 combined initiatives and CETAF GS.

### CETAF Contribution

CETAF focused on the development of the DiSSCo training strategy, coordinating the National Nodes engagement and designing and implementing the communications strategy. Moreover, CETAF made active contributions to the financial and governance aspects of the DiSSCo RI. A major deliverable produced under CETAF's lead was the DiSSCo Training Strategy, the results of which were also incorporated into the final DPP output, the DiSSCo Construction Master Plan. This strategy constitutes a building block for formulating and creating the Training Service for the RI that CETAF aims to provide to DiSSCo.

**30** ↙  
PARTNERS

**€4M** ↙  
BUDGET

**3** ↙  
YEARS

## DiSSCo Transition DTP



<https://www.dissco.eu/dissco-transition/>

DiSSCo Transition - DTP runs under the Call HORIZON-INFRA-2023-DEV-01 to facilitate the upgrade of critical components of the DiSSCo RI and to ensure smooth and effective submission of the legal entity ERIC proposal to the European Commission. With a lifetime of 18 months and a budget of €1.5 mln, the project started in December 2023 with the engagement of those partners that are envisioned as DiSSCo managers and service providers, including CETAF. CETAF was selected to lead the work package focusing on the DiSSCo National Nodes engagement and inclusion, while it will also contribute to several tasks to enhance and embed some of the services provided to the RI, the training system, helpdesk, the registry of collections and more.

**15** ↙  
PARTNERS

**€1.5M** ↙  
BUDGET

**1.5** ↙  
YEARS

## Synthesis of systematic resources - SYNTHESYS+



<https://www.synthesys.info>

**SYNTHESYS+** was the fourth and final iteration (funded under the Call H2020-INFRAIA-2018-2020) of a programme that has ran continuously from February 2004 until January 2023, under the lead of Natural History Museum of London, UK, with the goal of laying the foundations for the physical and virtual components of the DiSSCo RI. Specifically, SYNTHESYS+ aimed to produce during its lifetime of 4 years and thanks to its budget of €10 mln, an accessible, integrated European resource for research users. The project had a three-fold focus on Access, Joint Research Activities and Networking Activities, all jointly seeking to strengthen the access, interoperability, harmonisation of resources and use of services and tools, based on the improvement of physical collections management (with standards and best practices implementation) and the creation of digital objects to form virtual collections.

### CETAF contribution

In SYNTHESYS+, CETAF was the leader of the networking package and several tasks related to institutional policy alignment to sustain DiSSCo services, development of an online helpdesk and fostering stakeholder engagement. Major deliverables included a pilot collections digitisation dashboard (CDD) to improve the discoverability of collections across EU institutions. Also, a policy metadata schema for structuring and describing policies that institutions will need to align with DiSSCo, that forms the data backbone for a policy-self assessment tool that was developed by NHM London under DiSSCo Prepare. Other contributions were notably the roadmap for collaborative partnerships with the relevant industrial sectors.

**32**

PARTNERS

**€ 10M**

BUDGET

**4**

YEARS

## MOBILISE COST Action



<https://www.mobilise-action.eu>

During this 5-years initiative (EU COST Action CA17106 chaired by Dimitris Koureas, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, NL), MOBILISE - Mobilising Data, Policies and Experts in Scientific Collections - aimed to produce a comprehensive knowledge framework for establishing bio- and geo-diversity data as a crosscutting topic for nature-related domains. To this end, the project acted as a flexible, creative, and multidisciplinary hub for exchanging experiences and expertise, in the shared understanding that comprehensive biodiversity information gathered from collections are at the basis for a plan of action on biodiversity preservation. Furthermore, MOBILISE with the participation of 33 partners and a budget of €0.5 mln, was focused on creating a collaborative network and the consolidation of a supporting training platform, bringing together key actors on biodiversity data mobilisation for the first time at the scale and focus required. Thus, it prepared the ground for innovative and robust technical solutions to be implemented at a pan-European Research Infrastructure level (i.e. DiSSCo).

### CETAF Contribution

Ana Casino, CETAF Executive Director, was the Vice-Chair of the MOBILISE Action and therefore, participated in its structure (budget and display of actions) and development, and provided support to the Chair in all aspects needed.

# 33



PARTNERS

# 5



YEARS

# € 0.5M



BUDGET

## ENVRI FAIR



<https://www.mobilise-action.eu>

The ENVRI-FAIR – ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES BUILDING FAIR SERVICES ACCESSIBLE FOR SOCIETY, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH – is a 4-year project led by Forschungszentrum Jülich, DE (funded under the Call H2020-INFRAEOSC-2018-2) aiming to establish a set of FAIR data services to enhance the efficiency and productivity of researchers, support innovation, enable data- and knowledge-based decisions and connect the ENVRI Cluster to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). As a relevant outcome produced by the end of the project, January 2023, the ENVRI community provided an open-access platform for interdisciplinary environmental research data and a well-defined set of community policies and standards on all steps of the data life cycle.

### CETAF Contribution

CETAF collaborated with Naturalis focusing on the FAIR implementation timeline and roadmap for different RIs. We also worked with LifeWatch and Catalogue of Life to develop best practices for using and resolving scientific names. Through this collaboration, the persistent identifiers, metadata, data catalogues and Authorisation and Authentication Infrastructure (AAI) were addressed in the cross-RI FAIR implementation framework. The results of this work have already provided valuable input for DiSSCo's FAIR roadmap.

# 4

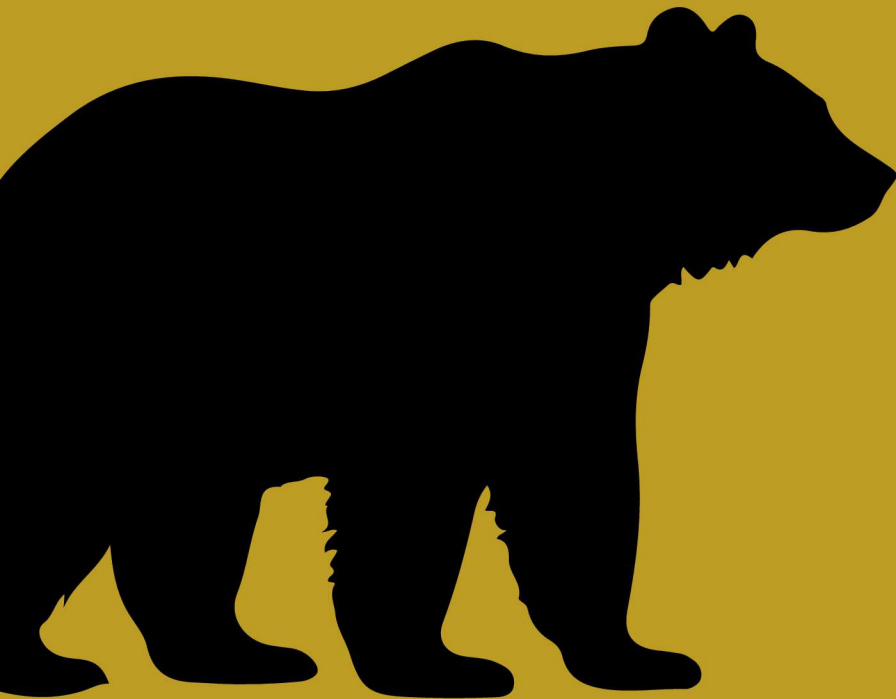


YEARS

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**29** Advocating for taxonomy

**32** Collaborating with sister organisations



# The ecosystem of activities around CETAF

*Raising awareness of the importance of taxonomy, towards the implementation of the CETAF Strategy*

# ADVOCATING FOR TAXONOMY

The role of CETAF in advocating for taxonomy and raising awareness of the impact generated by the taxonomic work spans a large and varied work, from production of **statements** and **policy briefs** to participation in **campaigns** and **international fora and events**, as well as intensifying its **networking** at key relevant agencies and organisations.

## CETAF Statement for the sustainability of taxonomic knowledge and expertise

In an increasingly demanding landscape for taxonomic capacity, CETAF released a *Statement for the sustainability of taxonomic knowledge and expertise* that specifically addresses the difference between “observation and identification” and “monitoring”. While the latter falls under the countries’ responsibility, the former needs to be tackled from an overall perspective to ensure that knowledge is produced throughout the continent and transferred to wherever is needed. The Statement stands as a tool to push forward national agendas that favour and support taxonomy and taxonomic capacity building.

## The Gothenburg Declaration on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

This statement recalls how fundamental the integration of taxonomic knowledge and taxonomic expertise in the Global Biodiversity Framework is, and the need for adequate funding.

The members of CETAF pledge to contribute to the GBF 2030 targets and the 2050 goals, in very different ways while underlining the critical role played by taxonomic information derived from species identification to revert decline trends and preserve nature sustainably.

## The position of CETAF in the Landscape of Natural History Collections and Taxonomy

This document traces what role and function CETAF have in the taxonomic community. As a transnational forum of discussion, as an united voice of taxonomists to the policy-makers, as a hub of information and documentation, as training provider and much more, CETAF stands as unique of its type in Europe and globally. A reference that can escalate within European borders but equally engage with partners across the globe, to unify, harmonise and foster parallel actions in support of the scientific collections as basic for the understanding of biodiversity.



## The Vienna Statement on the Importance of Research in Natural History Collections

Natural history collections are at the basis of species discovery and innovation in biodiversity-linked fields, along with the experts that conduct research on top of them. The data extracted from those NHCs constitute the core of research infrastructures and are critical assets for the facilities and research priorities of the institutions that house them. To that end, CETAF is in the process of developing a Research Agenda for biodiversity and geodiversity sciences in Europe to contribute to the European Research Area and to actively participate in the science-policy interface. At the same time, this provides a solid foundation for decision-making processes supporting the transformative change needed to fulfil the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

## CETAF Policy Brief: Taxonomy as an Instrumental Component in the Implementation of Actions and Policies Developed Under the Global Biodiversity Framework

This Policy brief chronologically accompanies the Vienna Statement, to reiterate the fundamental role of taxonomy in fulfilling the Kunming-Montreal GBF. The document contains some recommendations for a multidimensional approach to taxonomy intended to provide scientific argumentation to policy-makers and improve their awareness on the core values of the fundamental science of taxonomy; some are to reinforce the free sharing of data and knowledge; others to create the conditions to sustain taxonomic expertise and attract new generations of skilled professionals and engaged

citizens, and all together to support evidence on the multidisciplinary applications of taxonomic work for tackling biodiversity loss and initiate the reverse of the declining trends of natural resources.

## Taking part in the critical push to approve the Nature Restoration Law

CETAF strongly advocated for the approval of the Nature Restoration Law in the European Parliament through two consecutive press releases (13th and 26th of June) and an intense social media campaign. By having a prominent role in this campaign along with and acknowledged by the European Commission, CETAF contributed to secure a positive outcome in this critical action for the benefit of nature and our well-being at large.



## Aligning efforts with sister initiatives in the global arena

The CETAF Secretariat aims to coordinate and align efforts with parallel initiatives (as iBOL Europe) to avoid duplication of efforts, ensure alignment and focus actions on targeted audiences. Under the BGE project, the iBOL network was further developed during 2023 to follow iBOL global while adding European specificities in its scope, reach and operation.

## Participation in international fora

As an IPBES Observing Member, the CETAF General Secretariat attended the 10th session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES10) in Bonn, Germany (28 August - 2 September), preceded by a Stakeholder Day the day before. By participating in international fora of this kind, CETAF boosts the interaction between science and policy on critical issues in the field biodiversity and ecosystem services, and underlines the role of the organisation in tackling topics as species mass extinction, control of invasive alien species, socio-economic impact of biodiversity loss for sustainable life on earth and others, through participation in surveys and assessment processes (as it was the case for IAS consultation officially launched in September 2023).

Furthermore, CETAF through its Secretariat, participates in the ABS Consultation Forum organised by the European Commission (GD ENV-Green Diplomacy & Multilateralism) to oversee implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Europe and to tackle major issues in that field. In 2023, the Executive Director participated in the 8th Meeting of the Forum that took place in Brussels on 23 September.

## Enlarging the network of relevant contacts in European Agencies and Institutions

During 2023, CETAF intensified its contacts with representatives from different Directorates General at the European Commission and the Parliament as well as in other organisations with which to establish partnerships and collaborations.

During 2023, specific meetings were organised with DG Environment's Nature Protection unit (D.3) to explore opportunities for CETAF and its network in the LIFE Programme. Several meetings were also held with the DG Environment's Pollinators Team in order to discuss the opportunities and needs for CETAF's contributions in the implementation of the Pollinators Initiative. Equally, through the operation of STING, CETAF has worked closely with the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and explored aspects in which the CETAF community may meaningfully contribute.

In July 2023, CETAF took part in the visit of DG RTD's Unit B3 (Climate Change and Planetary Boundaries) to the Royal Museum of Natural Sciences in Brussels, where CETAF's aims and achievements were presented to the 20+ member delegation.



IPBES10, Bonn, Germany, (28 August-2 September 2023)

# COLLABORATING WITH SISTER ORGANISATIONS

In a very complex and increasingly populated landscape of biodiversity-related initiatives, exploring synergies with parallel actions and organisations help to find niches of joint operation to multiply impact, and to create new opportunities of collaborative work with a multidisciplinary approach and a solutions-driven perspective.

## Strengthening the presence in the BEERi board

The Board of the European Environmental Research Infrastructures - BEERi - is an advisory panel consisting of senior representatives (research infrastructure directors or coordinators) from the research infrastructures (RI) operating in the environmental domain. It includes references to the four main subdomains, namely atmosphere, solid earth, marine, ecosystems (and multidimensional as it is the case of CETAF). The panel is directly linked and currently provides advice to the ENVRI-FAIR project management while giving a strategic view to project progress, acting as an internal advisory board representing the needs of environmental research infrastructures.

In 2023, CETAF continued to represent the CETAF community as well as the DISSCo consortium in the Board of European Research Infrastructures -BEERi- as part of its engagement with the other environmental RIs under the ENVRI-FAIR project, attending the regular meetings and conducting timely correspondence. BEERi has established several working groups, each focusing on a different important aspect of the RI landscape, with CETAF joining the WG on ENVRI engagement with relevant initiatives. As the ENVRI-FAIR project was finalised in early 2023, the BEERi is the main platform for discussing the

future of the ENVRI community and CETAF intends to be the voice of DISSCo in this context. Terms of Reference and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding for continuing the collaboration are expected to be completed in the near future.



Courtesy of RBINS



## Expert involvement in STING

Fostered and supported by DG Environment and the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the STING project (Science and Technology for Pollinating Insects) aims to mobilise experts and resources to address certain priorities under the Pollinators Initiative, with the ultimate goal of providing the technical support needed for the implementation of the EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (EU PoMS).

The second part of the STING project had as its main objective to explore how to better implement and fine-tune the EU-PoMS. For that, a pool of experts were invited as part of this initiative to promote policy based on scientific evidence and ultimately to articulate actions with a multi-folded objective: a) the improvement and consolidation of the Pollinators Directive and its upcoming iteration; b) the consolidation of a harmonised framework to support national-wide actions, c) the setting of a comprehensive system for identifying resources needed for the effective implementation of pollinators monitoring across Europe, and d) the establishment of recommendations to allocate those resources covering scientific, structural and financial aspects. Similarly, the STING initiative is run towards first, the improvement and consolidation of the Pollinators Directive and its upcoming iteration, as well as to the effective implementation of EU-PoMS. CETAF coordinated the work for "Tracking the development and proposing recommendation on pollinator taxonomic expertise", building on building on top of the recommendations derived from the Red List of Taxonomists.

## Creating systemic linkages with BiodivERSA+

BiodivERSA+, the European co-funded biodiversity partnership supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society, is seen as a strategic stakeholder for CETAF and an agreement is sought in the framework of the Key Collaboration arrangement.

CETAF strives to stand as a permanent instrumental collaborator in specific areas, for which a dedicated service portfolio may be created. On the other hand, BiodivERSA+ has already produced a proposal to present to its General Assembly in order to move this collaboration forward. Discussions were held between the CETAF Secretariat and BiodivERSA+ leadership during November 2023 (Rainer Sodtke, BiodivERSA+ Vice Chair was also a guest at the CETAF54 General Assembly) towards setting the principles and laying down the possible paths for further collaboration, both in the short and the long-term.

## Opening-up the activity realm with European Federation of Geologists

As a result of researching potential funding opportunities for the GeoCaSe portal, contact was established with the European Federation of Geologists (EFG), and more specifically its Geological Heritage Panel. During 2023, several meetings were held with EFG representatives, both with the Director to discuss general ideas for collaboration and with the Projects team in the context of potentially joining forces for the Horizon Europe calls in the area of geosciences. They can certainly act complementary to CETAF scientific approach bringing in the professional-led positioning of companies and experts working on geological-related fields.



Courtesy of RBINS

## Multiplying efforts with the industrial sector through BiGC

CETAF GS established relations with the organisation named Biodiversity in Good Company (BiGC) during IPBES 10 in Bonn (September 2023) and then subsequently deepened the discussions in the following months. Apart from generally exchanging of ideas, this process already led to concrete results as the CEO of BiGC was featured as a keynote speaker at the Stakeholder Lab event organised under the TETTRIs project in Vienna (in November 2023), right after the CETAF54 GA.

CETAF aims to continue this collaboration journey with BiGC beyond this event in the context of engaging with the industry for creating new opportunities for taxonomists, including the spread and further implementation of the programme “Taxonomists in Residence” to build bridges between taxonomy-related researchers and the private sector, to accompany them in their compliance efforts with many rules and regulations related to environmental topics and finally, creating a pool of multidisciplinary taxonomic experts.

## Ensuring alignment with DiSSCo RI through CSO

CETAF Executive Director is the Deputy Coordinator of the DiSSCo Coordination and Support Office (CSO) and leads the stream of Communication and Engagement, while most of the CETAF GS staff are members of the distributed team of the CSO that combines the team from Naturalis (coordinated by Dimitris Koureas) and the CETAF GS. Additionally, the CSO includes a programme developer contracted by CETAF from RMCA Tervuren, supported by the CSO in contributing to both the CETAF Registry and the Specialization framework, as well as the GeoCASE portal.

<https://cetaf.org/wp-content/uploads/CETAF-statement-for-the-sustainability-of-taxonomic-knowledge-and-expertise.pdf>

<https://cetaf.org/elementor-9222/>

<https://cetaf.org/wp-content/uploads/The-position-of-CETAF.pdf>

<https://cetaf.org/wp-content/uploads/VIENNA-Statement.pdf>

<https://cetaf.org/wp-content/uploads/CETAF-Policy-Brief.pdf>

<https://envri.eu/beer/>

<https://www.biodiversa.eu>

<https://eurogeologists.eu>

<https://www.business-and-biodiversity.de/en/>

<https://cetaf.org>

CETAF contributes with in-kind contribution (20% equivalent to the cash contributions of the full members) to the interim development of DiSSCo Research Infrastructure, and actively participates in its strategic definition and development towards the constitution of the DiSSCo legal entity under the ERIC model. During 2023, specific tasks were dedicated to engagement with new members, supporting the decision-making bodies (the interim General Assembly and the Funders Forum) and contributing to the communication activities developed under DiSSCo umbrella.



36 Creating an impactful brand image

37 Communicating to raise awareness



# The public presence of CETAF

*The communication and dissemination efforts of CETAF are intended to expand the reach of the contents produced, the multiplication of the impact of the resources and activities of the community and also the increase of the awareness of citizens around biodiversity-related issues to become more literate and active by providing scientifically-proven evidence and reliable information. For that, the permanent support and exploitation to CETAF branding appears to be instrumental while the activity in a wide variety of channels has proven efficient and meaningful.*

# CREATING AN IMPACTFUL BRAND IMAGE

During 2023, **CETAF identity** has consolidated its branding and is currently well recognised by multiple actors and its presence is intense also as a reference in the communication actions of other organisations and actors in the field of biodiversity and natural history collections. CETAF as a brand has an identity reinforced permanently in its public facet.

New visual materials, including a corporate video, have been launched during 2023 by encapsulating key messages and pinpointing the impact created by taxonomy in an intricate and challenging environment. The video was widely shared on X and other social platforms to reach-out to new audiences and consolidate traditional addressees, closer to the world of science and research.



Pursuing the strategy creating easy-to-digest contents, CETAF created a set of communication materials handed over to ambassadors and representatives, to expand the knowledge of CETAF to a wider realm. A new flyer and two complementary posters were produced with a more modern and appealing visual branding that resumes what makes CETAF special: the specimens, the scientists and the institutions; the community, in short. As these materials target people not necessarily familiar with CETAF, or taxonomy in general, the language used is clear

and simple and notably represents an introduction to this fundamental science and the CETAF consortium. All the products were conceived to brand booths, rooms, offices and rooms whenever necessary while being aesthetically impactful, that is equally applied to other documentation of internal use, such as letterheads, cards and others. Meeting the needs of the CETAF distributed community, these products can also be printed "on-demand", with a personalised set of images and texts to also accommodate to local languages and culture.

**ONE COMMUNITY 25+ COUNTRIES**  
**75+ INSTITUTIONS 5000+ SCIENTISTS**  
**1.5 BILLION SPECIMENS**

**CETAF**  
 www.cetaf.org

Empowering #Taxonomy, at the heart of the decision-making process

**CREATED BY AND FOR THE TAXONOMIC COMMUNITY**

**SCIENCE AT THE HEART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

**BEYOND THE FIGHT TO THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS**

**A COMMITTED COMMUNITY**

**AT WORK FOR THE GOOD OF SCIENCE, FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW**

**THE UNITED VOICE OF THE TAXONOMIC COMMUNITY**

**TAXONOMY IS THE ALPHABET OF ALL NATURAL SCIENCES**

**80% OF THE SPECIMENS IN THE WORLD ARE STORED IN EUROPE**

**IT IS THE ONLY SCIENTIFIC FIELD WITH A DEDICATED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

**FAIR**

Video, posters and flyers to improve the outreach

# COMMUNICATING TO RAISE AWARENESS

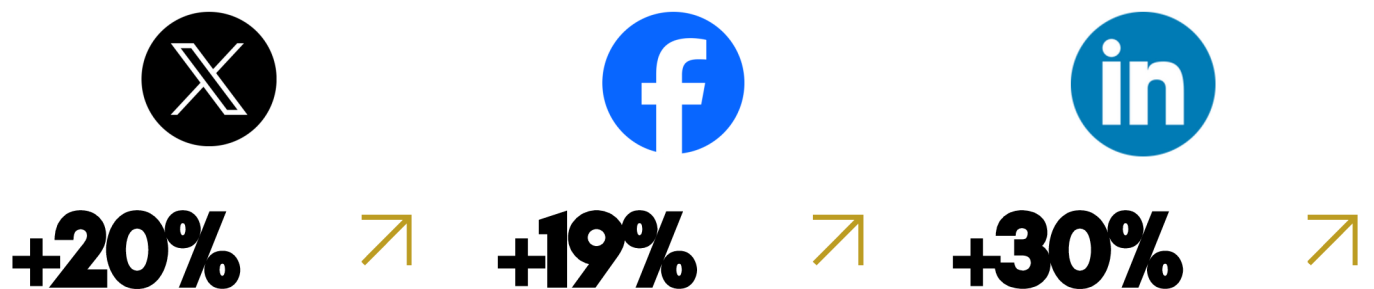
The CETAF website is considered the main vehicle to communicate and disseminate CETAF activity. As such, it is subject to continuous update, enhancement and enlargement with news feeds, social media links and services and tools for the taxonomic community.

Apart from a public front-end that aims to be attractive and inspirational, the CETAF website also contains a section for internal document-sharing, exclusively accessible for member institutions and their staff, that was made fully operational in 2023.

**250K**   
IMPRESSION/YEAR

Additionally, CETAF activity in social media focused on network X (formerly Twitter), with a smaller presence on LinkedIn, and Facebook. YouTube gathers the CETAF official videos as well as the rest of video material of relevance for the community, including links to members applications and DiSSCo resources.

Following the efforts made during 2023, CETAF social media access registered an important increase reflected in the following numbers:



X is the favourite social network in the taxonomic community, despite recent changes in company politics, due to the rebranding and the birth of new social networks that have weakened this leadership.

Moreover, some institutions and/or individuals of the taxonomic community left X due to ethical concerns and as a consequence, there has occurred an overall reduced interaction and activity through this social network.

From the CETAF perspective, less technical content has been shared while efforts have been dedicated to using a more easy-going language in order to facilitate the comprehension and sharing of content among potential users that might not be that familiar with taxonomic references but still share CETAF goals and values in relation to biodiversity.

The impact created by the numerous contents developed under projects in which CETAF is involved (as BiCIKL and TETTRIs), has resulted in the increase of over a 20% in followers, and generated roughly 200.000 impressions these last twelve months.

# 200K

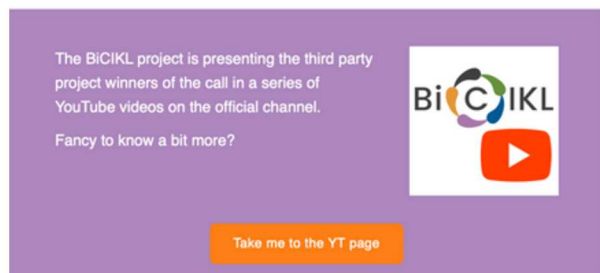
## IMPRESSION/YEAR

LinkedIn is still used exclusively to share institutional content or job opportunities, even if a greater effort on this network is foreseen for 2024 given the responsiveness obtained towards the activities on this social network.

The newsletter of CETAF is titled e-Pulse to summarise what is critically new and relevant to the community. It has been published since June 2022, on a 6-months periodicity, with a special issue dedicated to TETTRIs as #6, in September 2023 and the regular #7 circulated in December 2023. The subscribers at the end of the year 2023 were over 450 and growing.



The CETAF newsletter e.pulse





**40** The resources to support  
CETAF activity

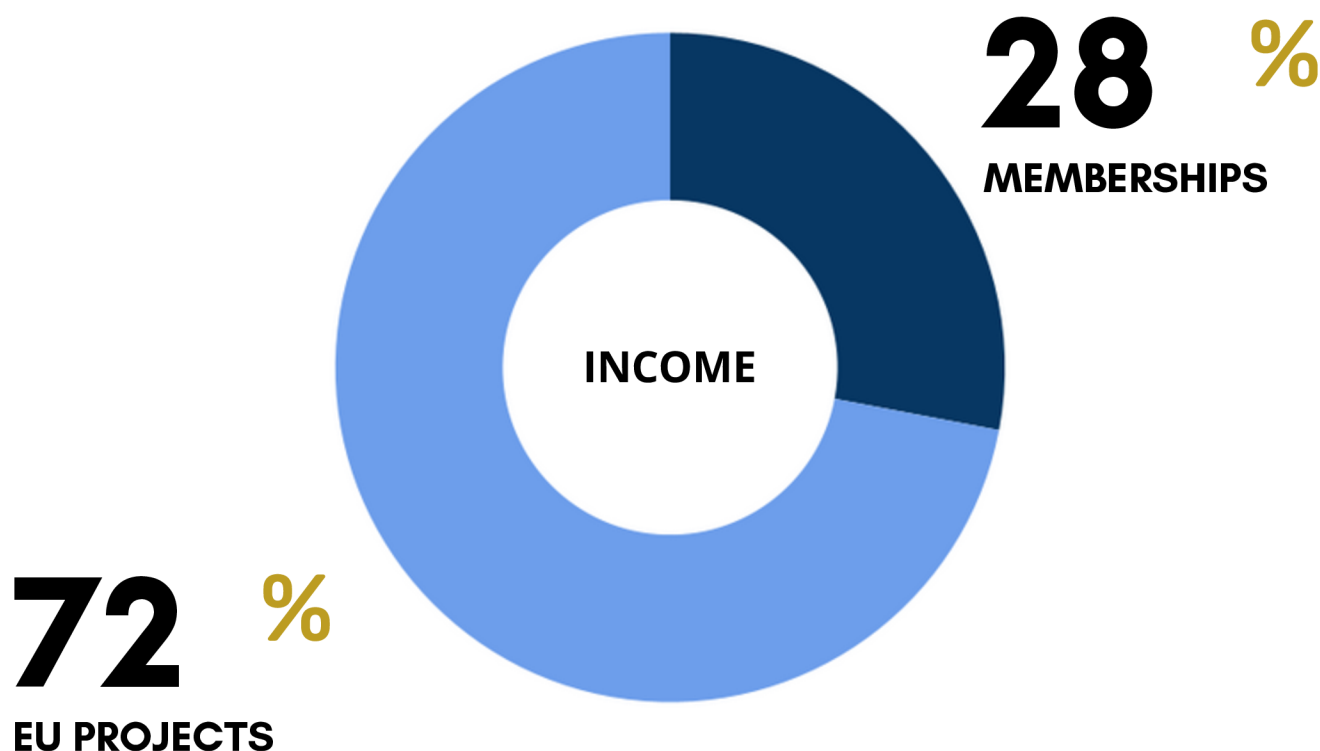


**The resources to  
support CETAF activity**

# THE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT CETAF ACTIVITY

The financial resources of CETAF primarily come from two different types of sources, namely the participation in external projects, which allows contracting personnel to tackle specific tasks to develop new services and consolidate CETAF initiatives.

Additionally, the core activity of the Secretariat is supported by the membership fees granted on an annual basis by the Member institutions of the organisation.



The year 2023 has been the scenario of important changes in the finances of CETAF with a new Business Model approved that aims to provide a well-ground, stable and long term schema for supporting the core activities of the Secretariat. With an increase in the membership fees of near 30%, the new model has a double objective, first to absorb the negative impact of

inflation (with unexpected increases in the salaries and other inputs), and second, to look into the future, to reinforce the internal capacities of the Secretariat to address the ambitious working plan of CETAF and allow smooth operation of the organisation.

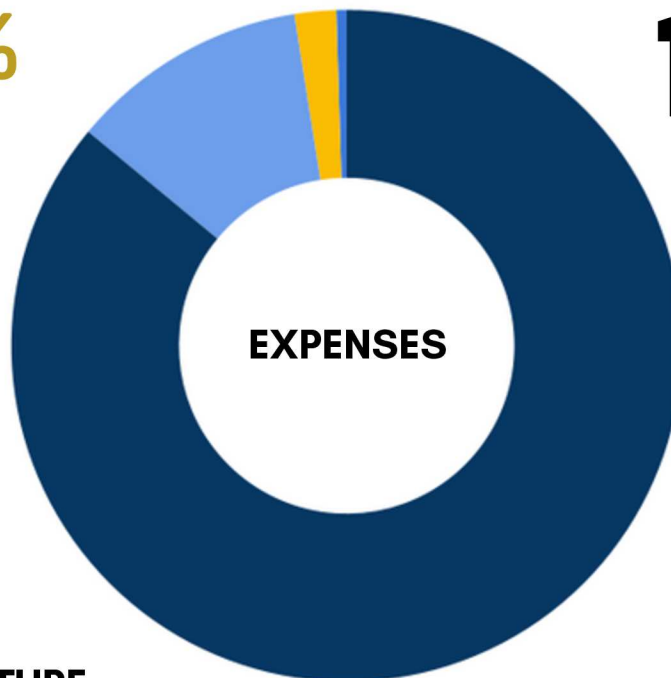


The Annual Accounts for year 2022 were approved along with the positive assessment of the Audit Report produced. Similarly, the Budget for year 2024 was also approved as the main mechanism to guide the use of resources gathered by CETAF.

During 2024, and as reflected in the Corresponding Budget 2023, CETAF will move to

a double-entry accounting system that will be run with external support, by an expert company. This process will be implemented by the new Operations Officer who will be tasked, among others, with the financial and accounting implementation.

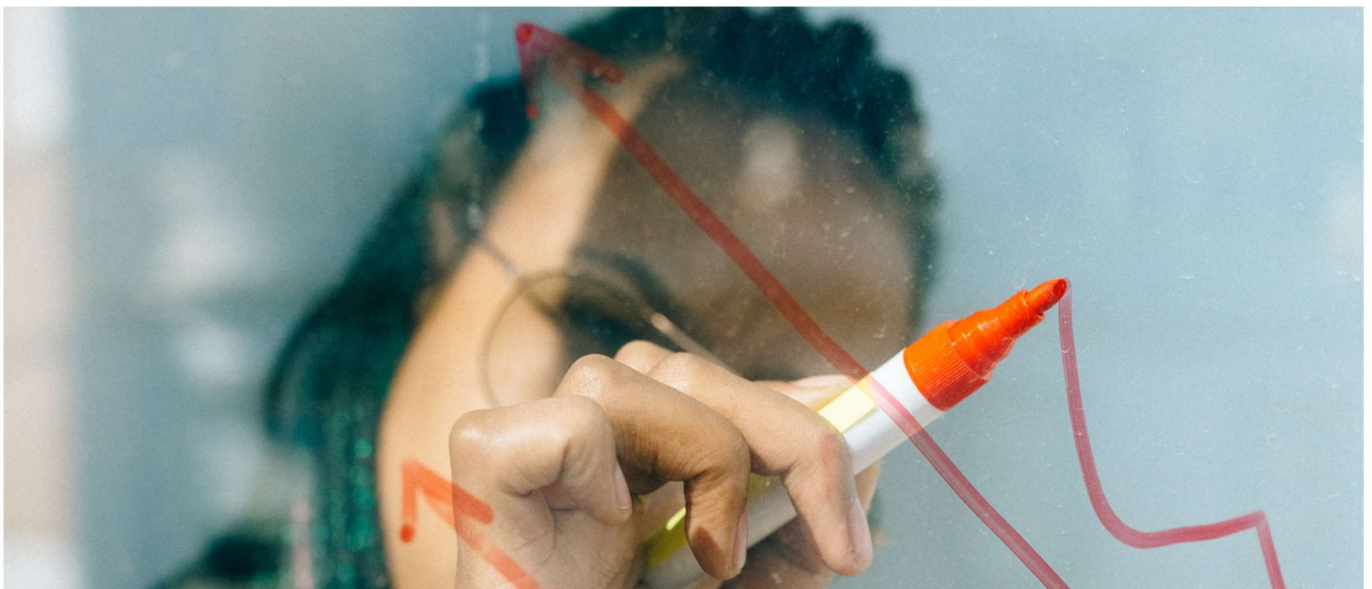
**86 %**  
SALARIES



**11,5 %**  
TRAVELLING

**2 %**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**0,5 %**  
OTHER



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MUNITY 25+

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75+ INSTITUT

IONS 5000+

SCIENTISTS

1.5 BILLION

SPECIMENS



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