



The Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF): A collaborative network for collections and taxonomy

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Global Framework: objectives

1

Promote scientific research and access to European natural history collections

2

Enable the formation of partnerships to benefit from funding opportunities

3

To be a voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe

6 Key Strategic Focus Areas



**Training
&
e-learning**



**Research:
new tools
and
innovations**



**Collections
management
and access**



**Science
policy
& indicators**



**Communicat
ion, public
outreach &
societal
relevance**



**Biodiversity
informatics
&
information
technologies**

INTERNAL COHERENCE

CETAF is more than the sum of its parts



Collective impact:

- **Critical mass** of European natural science institutions
- **Collective influence** and profile raising, with ability to shape the future
- Ability to collectively and collaboratively **benefit from opportunities**



Joint resources:

- **Sharing of resources, skills, expertise and knowledge**
- **Collaborative focus** on promoting collections, research and taxonomy training



Harmonized provision of services:

- **Europe-wide coverage**
- **Huge information exchange network**
- **Strong and fluid internal communication network**
- **Membership services and platform to foster cooperative relationships**
- **Collaborative provision** of services to science and society via the **dissemination of knowledge** on natural sciences

CETAF 43 Governing Board meeting, London

Development of the CETAF Research Agenda for Natural History Institutions in Europe



A collective and collaborative effort from over 60 institutions

CETAF

CETAF Bodies

Special Interest Groups: focus on key topics or specific issues within CETAF. Act as forums of information exchange and collaboration on issues in the medium to long-term

- Collections group
- Digitization group
- Earth Sciences group
- **E-publishing in taxonomy group**
- European Initiatives Advisory group
- Information Science and Technology Commission (ISTC)
- Legislation and Regulations group
- **Biodiversity Monitoring group**
- **Taxonomy Training and e-learning group**
- **Scientific Research Group**





Taxonomy (knowing species) forms the foundation for ensuring biodiversity preservation and ecosystem sustainability



CETAF Contribution to the GTI Forum in Egypt in 2018



We, the Governing Board of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia:

Recognise the deep global concern about the increasing threats to biodiversity, arising from habitat loss and degradation, climate change, excessive nutrient loads and other forms of pollution, over-exploitation and unsustainable use, and invasive alien species, among other issues;

Recognise further that the current loss of species and ecosystems, and the concomitant damage to ecosystem services vital to sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people, pose a clear threat;

Note that for many parts of the world and for many groups of organisms the majority of species are not yet known to science or, where known, cannot be easily identified, with the consequence that Parties find major difficulties in inventorying, protecting and preserving their biological diversity.

With this will in mind, we,

Recognise the continuing significance of the taxonomic impediment to the sound management and conservation of biodiversity, the removal of which is a crucial, rate-determining step in the proper implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Note the importance of developing and applying taxonomic information to the needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Recalling the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that established the Global Taxonomy Initiative and set out the objectives, plans and a programme of work to address the taxonomic impediment and build capacity, to increase the availability of taxonomic expertise and knowledge, and to speed up the documenting and understanding of biodiversity;

We,

Highlight the global importance of the institutions that are members of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF), the scientific collections they hold, the taxonomic expertise of their staff and students, their programmes of geological and taxonomic discovery and training, and their principle of sharing taxonomic information openly to serve science and society;

Emphasise the partnerships developed by members of Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) with organisations and countries around the world, their extensive taxonomic capacity-building activities, and members' engagement with regional and global initiatives, including the Global Biodiversity Information Facility, the Catalogue of Life, the International Barcode of Life, the Consortium of Scientific Partners of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and others;

Underline the 'taxonomic imperative' to develop and make available taxonomic expertise, taxonomic knowledge and biodiversity information to anyone contributing to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in a timely and reliable manner.

The members of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities pledge themselves to the support of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the attainment of the 2050 Vision, and the fostering of taxonomic contributions and expertise.

Bratislava, 15 November 2018

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Joint contribution to the GTI Forum in Egypt



Joint statement from the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Taxonomy in the post-2020 Framework for Biodiversity: underpinning the 2050 Vision for Living in Harmony with Nature

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Actions for incorporating taxonomy into the post-2020 biodiversity framework to support the global vision for 2050

- Recognition of taxonomy as a fundamental scientific discipline, with associated financial support given for the development of taxonomy-based scientific enterprises and citizen-science activities
- Support of taxonomists and the expertise of both geodiversity and- biodiversity scientists via the establishment of coordinated taxonomy-based training programmes, certifications and funding mechanisms
- Identification of bottom-up needs and requirements with respect to species discovery and biodiversity knowledge (respond to the question "What do the user communities actually need?")
- Facilitation of capacity building and multi-way information exchange in support of taxonomy and taxonomic expertise
- Coordination of outreach campaigns on geodiversity and biodiversity and sustainable development with the scientists who can interpret the outcomes of taxonomic research
- Engagement of stakeholders in taxonomic discovery and the interpretation of the living world
- Creation of cross-cutting and global taxonomy initiatives that focus on sampling and studying living material as well as using the world's natural history collections by involving taxonomic experts, amateurs, engaged citizen's, students and school children in documenting the natural world
- Support for coordinated initiatives that enable contributions and annotations from biodiversity domain experts to be persistently incorporated in aggregated open data systems, thus improving their quality and usefulness
- Development of integrated information systems that enable the seamless linking of taxonomic data derived from anatomical-morphological and molecular sources of evidence, respectively
- Address taxonomic bias and prioritize taxonomy, nomenclature, and the biological understanding of functionally critical taxa and guilds
- Creation of monitoring programmes for critical taxa or invasive taxa, using taxonomic expertise, field observations and biodiversity data aggregated through a globally coordinated system
- Scale up capacity building activities empowering individuals and institutions in all regions to benefit from the opportunities provided by a strong and developing taxonomic research sector and relevant communities of practitioners and users.

Cross-disciplinary research seeking answers to today's challenges, e.g. OneHealth, emerging diseases (CETAF-DiSSCo international Covid19 TaskForce), biodiversity monitoring





Indicators based on scientific evidence supporting initiatives on Biodiversity Monitoring

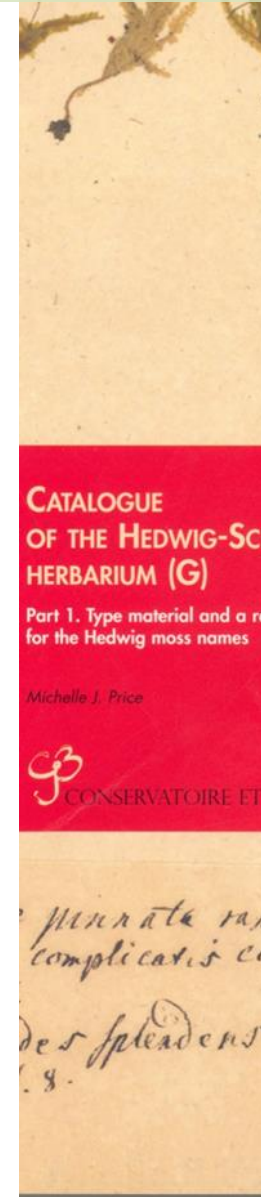




Taxonomy training based on the expertise of over 5000 scientists. Supporting the Distributed European School for Taxonomy (DEST)



contributor to and stakeholder in science-based biodiversity knowledge



<https://www.iaptglobal.org/>



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