

Resume of the CETAF 40 General Meeting: decisions and outcomes

CETAF40, 18th – 19th October 2016, CISC Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid, Spain

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The aims of the CETAF 40 in Madrid, Spain, were to approve the records of the previous meeting (CETAF39 – Budapest), the CETAF Budget for 2017, the CETAF Executive Committee work plan (2016-2017) and the CETAF general objectives. The meeting also included a presentation of the CETAF registry of institutions and their resources (namely, collections and facilities), the new CETAF webpages on the CETAF Strategy and CETAF ABS Code of Conduct, the MoU between CETAF and the BGCI and the CETAF Strategy Executive Summary, as signed by CETAF Directors or representatives. A workshop on electronic publishing and electronic publications was held during the meeting.

Items approved by inter-sessional vote prior to CETAF40

- Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between CETAF and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) was approved, in unanimity, on the 14th October 2016.

Items approved during CETAF 40

1. Agenda of CETAF 40,
2. Minutes and annexes from the CETAF 39 meeting in Budapest,
3. CETAF Executive Committee Work Plan 2016-17 and CETAF General Objectives 2016-2017,
4. CETAF Budget for 2017,
5. CETAF accepted the invitation to join the DiSSCo Steering Board, and approved CETAF's in kind contribution to the DiSSCo Initiative, via the Chair, Executive Committee and Secretariat, participation in the Coordination Team, and provision of dissemination and communication services,
6. The current CETAF Executive Committee Secretary, Dr. Cornelia Löhne, will take up a new position in the Bonn University Botanic Gardens. Jesus Munoz, previously nominated for the position of Secretary for the CETAF EC elections at CETAF39 (Budapest) will take up the position of CETAF EC Secretary.
7. The CETAF Governing Board voted on whether to consider the application from the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, in absentia. The vote was carried by the majority.

Actions taken during the CETAF 40 meeting

- **Signing of the CETAF and BGCI Memorandum of Understanding.** Suzanne Sharrock, BGCI Global Programmes Officer, represented the BGCI at the CETAF40 meeting.

- **A CETAF workshop on electronic publishing and electronic publications** was held during the meeting. Biodiversity Heritage Library (Connie Rinaldo, BHL; Jane Smith, BHL – NHM London and Jiri Frank NM Prague, BHL Europe) were invited to give an overview of BHL and explore potential collaborations with CETAF. Under the coordination of Laurence Bénichou (Museum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris / EJT), Eric Laureys (BELSPO, Belgium); Isabelle

Gérard (RMCA Tervuren) and Chloe Bescombes (Museum National d'Histoire naturelle, Paris) ran a workshop on electronic publishing, focusing on open access and author citations in publications. Outcomes will be circulated to CETAF members and the results presented at the CETAF41 meeting in Bonn.

- CETAF agreed that the CETAF Executive Committee, under the lead of Ana Casino and Vince Smith, will prepare a publication on the collections and expertise data collated in the **CETAF Passport portal**.

- **BHL Europe** will take on the responsibility of establishing a group constituted of librarians and technicians from CETAF member institutions that are directly related to digitising of literature from Europe. This group will work in collaboration with the digitization group, and other relevant CETAF working groups.

- BHL Europe, in collaboration with the CETAF EC and CETAF secretariat, will produce a **digital literature work plan and objectives** with respect to the digitization of literature and outlining potential collaborations between CETAF and BHL.

- A list of **journals produced by CETAF member institutions** will be collated from the CETAF passports (journals produced / published by CETAF institutions) and sent to CETAF members to complete the list with extant journals or journals that have changed their name over time, giving an indication of whether their journals are digitized, whether they are available or not, and where.

- **Signing of the CETAF Strategy Executive Summary**. A total of 21 of the 33 signatures required for the document had been received by the close of the meeting. Institutions whose Director or representative had not yet signed were encouraged to send their electronic signature to Ana Casino.

CETAF initiatives, projects and reports presented

- **CETAF COST Action**. An application by CETAF under the DiSSCo initiative was presented. Interest in this initiative was expressed before the CETAF meeting by Botanic Garden Meise, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Royal Botanic Garden Kew, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Botanical Garden and Botanic Museum, Berlin, Bavarian Natural History Collections, Munich, MUHNAC Portugal, National Museum Prague, Natural History Museum Crete, Slovakian Consortium). Eva-Maria Natzer from Bavarian Natural History Collections, Munich offered to take the lead of the COST Action application.

- **Distributed European School of Taxonomy**: progress and the future of the initiative under CETAF. Interested parties met to discuss the future of the DEST initiative under CETAF. A proposal will be drawn up to address this issue and explore how DEST can be sustained and continued under the umbrella of CETAF. This issue will also be discussed by the CETAF EC.

- **DG Connect and DG Research work programmes**. An overview of the new work programmes, with a focus on the upcoming calls likely to be of interest to CETAF and its member institutions, was given.

- **ISTC – Georeferencing initiative, Stable identifiers Hackathon and Position paper**.

Progress has been made on the Geo-referencing initiative coordinated by Naturalis. They will be invited to present this at the CETAF41 meeting to be held in Bonn. The CETAF ISTC and

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CETAF Digitization group will hold a joint meeting in the Spring of 2017. The position paper produced by the group has been accepted for publication.

- **SPNHC Side event on ABS the 25th June 2016.** The CETAF Legislation and Regulations group ran a side event at the recent SPNHC meeting. Dirk Neuman and Chris Lyal will take over the intermediate coordination of this group. The group will request the updating / completing of the CETAF members ABS representatives. During the meeting a call was made for new members to join the group to facilitate the collaborative work on ABS issues. CETAF Directors and Representatives were encouraged by the Chair to engage the relevant staff from their institutions in this group.

- **e-learning and taxonomy training - the launch of the BIOTALENT project.** The BIOTALENT project received funding and began on the 1 September 2016. The group were congratulated for their success. CETAF members interested in contributing to this project or becoming part of the e-learning and taxonomy training group were encouraged to contact the group coordinators (Isa van de Velde and Catharina Voreadou).

- **European Initiatives Group – CETAF RRI Framework.** As follow-up from the CETAF RRI workshop during CETAF39 in Budapest, the CETAF RRI outcomes were presented. A consultation period will be opened so that CETAF members can comment and add suggestions to the current documentation. The European Initiatives Group will then produce a report that will be presented during the CETAF41 meeting in Bonn.

- **Collections Policy Board** : reflections on the group and its future. The CPB group met prior to CETAF40 and conducted a SWOT analysis to provide a base for reflections on the future and future directions of the group. The CPB core team will meet with Michelle Price and members of the CETAF EC to outline the future of the group and establish clear directives.

CETAF products and outcomes presented

1. CETAF Registry (online institutions profiles): search engine and the exploitation and updating of data,
2. CETAF webpages for the CETAF Strategy and the CETAF Code of Conduct and Best Practices for ABS,
3. Chair – Executive Committee and General Secretariat updates on CETAF activities,
4. Proposal for submission to the new ESFRI Roadmap – updates on the DiSSCo initiative from the DiSSCo coordination team.

Activities announced during the meeting

- CETAF members will be invited to update their passport information, via a direct institutional link into the **CETAF Passport Database** that will be sent to members after the CETAF40 meeting.
- The CETAF Executive Committee will prepare a short communication on the **CETAF Strategy Executive Summary**.

Other related meetings conducted

CETAF Collections Policy Board (17-18th October, Madrid).

European Journal of Taxonomy Steering Committee (Monday 17th October).



Invited participants and observers

Suzanne Sharrock, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI); Ole Seberg, Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN); Connie Rinaldo, Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL); Jane Smith, BHL – NHM London; Laurence Bénichou – NMNH Paris / EJT; Eric Laureys, BELSPO; Isabelle Gérard – RMCA Tervuren; Chloe Bescombes – NMNH Paris.

New members

The application for membership from the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel was approved by the majority of CETAF members.

Next CETAF meetings

CETAF41 will be held at the *Zoological Research Museum Alexander Koenig* in Bonn, Germany on the 25-26 April 2017

CETAF42 will be held at the *Natural History Museum of Crete* in Heraklion, Crete on the 3-4 October 2017