

Resume of the CETAF 41 General Meeting: decisions and outcomes

CETAF41, 25th – 26th April 2017, Zoological Museum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany
Michelle J. Price & Ana Casino

The aims of the CETAF 41 in Bonn, Germany:

- Presentation of the CETAF40 meeting records
- Presentation of the CETAF Annual Accounts for 2016 and the Audit Report for 2016
- Presentation of CETAF and CETAF GS achievements for 2016-2017 and objectives for 2017-2018
- Presentation of working group reports for 2016-2017 and objectives for 2017-2018
- Presentation of the CETAF Framework for Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)
- Presentation of CETAF resources for collections, collections management and data searches

The meeting also included a demonstration of Social Media (Twitter, Facebook) for CETAF41 attendees and an open discussion on CETAF strategic actions and priorities for 2017-2018 and beyond. A CETAF Workshop on collections management and assessment techniques was held during the meeting.

Items approved during CETAF 41

1. Agenda of CETAF 41,
2. Minutes and annexes from the CETAF 40 meeting in Madrid,
3. CETAF Chair and Executive Committee report for 2016-2017,
4. CETAF Annual Accounts for 2016,
5. Discharge of the CETAF EC for their duties for the 2016-2017 reporting period.

Actions taken during the CETAF 40 meeting

- A special CETAF Task Force will be set up to discuss and take action on the continuation of DEST. Those interested in joining the task force are requested to contact Ana Casino (ana.casino@cetaf.org).
- A CETAF working group on collections monitoring was proposed by W. Wägele (ZMFK Bonn) during CETAF41. This group will be set up (coordinated by Livia Schäffler, ZMFK Bonn) to focus on creating a collaborative CETAF initiative in this domain.

CETAF initiatives, projects and reports presented

- **Information Science & Technology Commission (ISTC)** – Anton Güntsch (BGBM Berlin-Dahlem) – new scientific article: Güntsch et al., 2017. **Actionable, long-term stable and semantic web compatible identifiers for access to biological collection objects. DATABASE.** DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/database/bax003> (cetaf_ISTC@list.cetaf.org).
- **Digitization Working Group** - Elspeth Haston (RBG Edinburgh) - The working group will work out a tiered definition of what actually constitutes a digitised specimen and will collect numbers of specimens digitised from member institutions. For the near future, the WG will, in collaboration

CETAF41 : decisions and outcomes – 26 April 2017

- with iDigBio, conduct a digitisation resources gap analysis survey to be presented to the community(cetaf_Digitization@list.cetaf.org)
- **Collections Policy Board (CPB)** - Christiane Quaiser (MfN Berlin)- The CPB defined its future aims and prioritised work on re-establishing the working group, its strategic framework and its communication channels, starting with a questionnaire on institutional priorities. For the upcoming year, the CPB plans to work on the definition of common principles for digital data produced by external users and a joint management policy on digital collections (cetaf_CPB@list.cetaf.org).
 - **Legislation and Regulations Working Group** -Dirk Neumann (ZSM.MWN Munich)- The group will continue working on ABS related topics and will complete and continuously complement the CETAF ABS webpage with additional relevant information (training modules, revised BP, etc). Moreover, other legislative issues will be addressed (as in relation to chemicals and cultural goods)(cetaf_legislation@list.cetaf.org).
 - **Training and e-learning Working Group**- Catherina Voreadou (NHM Crete)- In the light of the CETAF focus area on training, the WG presented the successful bid for the BIOTALENT project under an ERSUMUS+ call, which started on 1 September 2016 and will last till 30 August 2019. The major output of this project will be the production and validation of a platform for blended courses on biodiversity in connection with climate change. (cetaf_eLearning@list.cetaf.org).
 - **Earth Science Working Group**- Johanna Eder (NHM Stuttgart)-The WG completed several surveys which will also be expanded to other CETAF members and beyond: catastrophic events documented in collections, databased specimens, and type specimens. Within the next reporting period, the WG will focus on the legislation on the protection of cultural heritage and its impact on natural science collections, the now obligatory registration of fossil plant names and an inventory of existing field collecting policies. (cetaf_earthSC@list.cetaf.org).
 - **European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT)**- Laurence Bénichou (NMHN Paris) – Two new consortium members were announced (RBG Madrid & MNCN Madrid). Additionally, following the workshop held at CETAF40 on electronic publishing and electronic publications, this initiative will work on its results that will be presented at CETAF42.
 - **Strategy Working Group** - Michelle J. Price (CJBG Geneva) – After completing its main task (producing the CETAF Strategy 2015-25), the WG will now focus in producing a CETAF position paper on collections and taxonomy for 2019 (cetaf_strategy@list.cetaf.org).
 - **Research Assessment Group**- Michelle J. Price (CJBG Geneva) – This group has not been active over the last year. M. Price is seeking someone to coordinate this group with her – please contact (cetaf_research@list.cetaf.org).
 - **European Initiatives Advisory Group** – Ana Casino (CETAF Secretary) - After re-aligning its focus, the WG has developed a CETAF-wide framework of principles for Responsible Research and Innovation (presented under Item 11 of the Agenda). This CETAF set of principles will be printed and formally handed over at CETAF42.
 - **Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST)**- Erik Verheyen (RBINS Brussels)-The proposal from former coordinator (Isabella van de Velde) for DEST future management model was presented and will be discussed inter-sessionally as to be formulated at CETAF42.

CETAF products and outcomes presented

CETAF Responsible Research and Innovation Framework. As follow-up from the CETAF RRI workshop that was held during CETAF39 in Budapest, the CETAF RRI Framework was presented at CETAF41. This will be formally forwarded for endorsement at CETAF42 on its printed format.

Other related meetings that were held:

- Collections Policy Board meeting (9th March, Frankfurt)
- Joint ISTC and Digitisation Group meeting (27-28th March, Stuttgart)
- CETAF Earth Sciences Group (24th April, at ZMFK Bonn)
- European Journal of Taxonomy Steering Committee (24th April, at ZMFK Bonn).

Invited participants and observers

Peter Schalk (GBIF); Claire Valentine (NHM London); Sue Ryder (NHM London).

Next CETAF meetings

- CETAF42 will be held at the *Natural History Museum of Crete* (GR) on the 3-4 October 2017
- CETAF43 will be held at the *Natural History Museum, London* (UK) on the 24-25 April 2018
- CETAF 44 will be held in Bratislava (SK) (dates to be confirmed)