

CETAF 49th General Assembly - Executive Report

Michelle Price, CETAF Vice-Chair & Ana Casino, CETAF Executive Director

CETAF Executive Committee Approved – 30 June 2021

Virtual meeting on the 19 and 20 May 2021: **Host:** Royal Museum of Central Africa (RMCA), Tervuren, Belgium. Director: Dr Guido Gryseels.



Items subject to vote

Item 1: **Revised Agenda for CETAF49** (see attached Annex I). Approved unanimously (36 votes cast); Item 2: **Records of CETAF47**. Approved unanimously (36 votes cast); Item 5: **CETAF EC Achievements report Nov2020-Apr2021**. Approved (35 votes, 1 abstention, 36 votes cast); Item 6a: **CETAF Annual Accounts 2020**. Approved (35 votes, 1 abstention, 36 votes cast); Item 6c: **CETAF Financial Report from 1st trimester 2021**. Approved unanimously (33 votes cast); Item 7: **Discharge of the CETAF Executive Committee**. Approved (32 votes, 1 abstention, 33 votes cast); Item 12: **Formation of the DiSSCo legal entity** - CETAF vote in the DiSSCo GA. Approved (20 yes, 5 no, 10 abstentions, 35 votes cast).

Note. The CETAF EC will communicate voting outcomes to the DiSSCo coordination team for follow-up in advance of the DiSSCo GA where the DiSSCo GA members will be voting on this issue (10th June).

Updating on CETAF activities

CETAF, with the lead partner Pensoft and the IUCN, won a European Commission Service Contract to work on developing on a **Red List of Taxonomists in Europe**; CETAF contributed to the **Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) Forum**, co-organized by MfN Berlin, and the compilation of the **GTI Forum Technical Report**; CETAF and **Botanical Garden Conservation International (BGCI)** renewed their collaborations with potential identified to work on ABS legislation, compliance and implementation in the near-future; CETAF will announce the prize winner of its **e-SCoRe award** on Friday 21 May; CETAF was involved in outreach and engagement for the **Global Coalition of Biodiversity** of the Directorate General of the Environment, presented by Gilles Doignon. CETAF launched its **new-look website** and encouraged member participation in contributing to content, news items and others.

Key reporting items

Working group reports were presented by the **Legislation and Regulations Group** (Dirk Neumann & Chris Lyal); **European Initiatives Advisory Board** (Vanessa Demanoff); **Biodiversity Monitoring Group** (Livia Schäffler); **Collections Group** (Luc Willemse); **Digitization Group** (Elspeth Haston); **Information Science Technology Commission** (Anton Güntsch); **e-Publishing Group** (Isabelle Gerard); **Earth Sciences Group** and **GeoCASE** (Rachel Walcott); **Scientific Research Group** (Gila Kahila Bar-Gal); **Communications Group** (Céline Cassarino); and **Distributed European School of Taxonomy - DEST** (Hugo de Boer). CETAF Directors and Representatives were encouraged to recruit persons from their home institutions to join the CETAF working groups and participate directly in CETAF activities and outcomes within these specialised groups. Contact the CETAF secretariat to obtain contact details for the group coordinators.

CETAF linked projects

CETAF is involved in numerous European projects or initiatives and updates were given for the following: **ENVRI-FAIR** (Sharif Islam); **BICiKL** (Laurence Bénichou); **Synthesys+** (Vince Smith); **DiSSCo Prepare** (Dimitris Koureas); **MOBILISE COST Action** (Catherina Voreadou).

CETAF as the hub for European taxonomy

The European landscape is evolving, with close collaborative relationships formed with the European Commission, leading to opportunities that are favourable to the CETAF community. With the recent launch of the CETAF Scientific Research Group and the intention of the CETAF community to develop its Research Agenda, the time is right to further develop CETAF as the European hub for taxonomy. Three invited speakers from the European Commission presented on the European landscape, the promotion of taxonomy in Europe and CETAF positioning, as follows: European Commission, Directorate-General of the Environment: **Mr Vujadin Kovacevic** - *Taxonomy and EU policy on biodiversity*; European Commission, Directorate-General of Research and Innovation: **Mrs Josefina Enfedaque** - *Taxonomy in EU Research and Innovation programmes*; BiodivERSA, Vice-Chair, **Mrs Hilde Eggermont** - *European Co-funded Partnership on Biodiversity*.

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CETAF workshop on the community development of a Cluster 6 proposal for Taxonomy Capacity Building in Horizon Europe

Under the newly launched Horizon Europe funding programme a call will be launched in 2022 “HORIZON-CL6-DEC-2022-00-00: *Building taxonomic research capacity near biodiversity hotspots and for protected areas by networking natural history museums and other taxonomic facilities.*” The DG RI representative, Josefina Enfedaque, indicated that one proposal is expected, and that she expected this to be from CETAF. The European Initiatives Advisory Group (EIAG) have worked on a concept note and circulated an expression of interest survey prior to CETAF 49 to inform on key topics that should be addressed in the proposal, types of participation in the initiative and potential contributions to the development of the proposal (proposal writing core-team) with returns analysed by the members of the EIAG. Carole Paleco, Patricia Mergen, Eva Häffner, Vanessa Demanoff and Vince Smith ran break-out groups to focus specifically on narrowing the scope of the proposal and identifying institutional contributions to shape the proposal development. A kick-off meeting will be organized soon after CETAF 49 with all persons that expressed an interest in joining the core-team for proposal writing.

Decisions taken by the CETAF Governing Board

1. The legal accommodation of CETAF Statutes and Bylaws to new Belgian regulations for AISBLs will continue (Item 3), with CETAF48 superseded,
2. CETAF, as a community, will proceed with the development of a proposal for submission in Autumn 2022 in Horizon Europe CL6, under the coordination of CETAF Secretariat (Item 16). A kick-off meeting will be organised by the Secretariat and European Initiatives Advisory Group,
3. CETAF will respond to the European Commission suggestion to submit a request to change the future call from an Innovation Action (IA) to a Coordination and Support Action (CSA),
4. A CETAF Task force will be created to refine the CETAF vision and mission,
5. CETAF will collaborate with MNHN Paris to organise the CETAF50 meeting and a special event to celebrate the 50th CETAF General Assembly and the 25th Anniversary of the founding of CETAF,
6. CETAF will follow-up with the three invited speakers to ensure close relationships are maintained and actions can be identified.