Taxonomy and partners in science

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Science is not made in a vacuum. Therefore the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT), a network of 27 natural history institutions and organisations, targets both scientific activities of taxonomists and activities of its social partners. Additionally, EDIT communicates to the social partners what taxonomy is, why it is relevant and who contributes to its progress. EDIT offers a work environment where:

- its members and stakeholders can meet
- they can experiment with joint research and outreach activities and if proven successful,
- a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) can be signed to formalise future collaboration.

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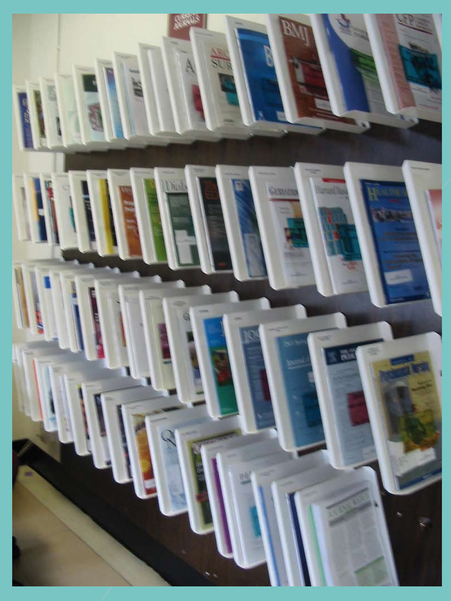
Taxonomists and natural history collections

EDIT promotes the taxonomic expertise of professionals and non-professionals. Taxonomists study living and extinct organisms, identify the species to which they belong and give names to yet unknown species. Natural history collections are the primary resource of taxonomic research and a vital infrastructure. Collections are a Megascience Large Scale facility created by the accumulated work of thousands of individual taxonomists, professionals and amateurs, for more than 300 years.

Scientific users – taxonomy in science

EDIT supports and encourages multi-disciplinary collaborations and demonstrates the power of taxonomic information for the advancement of biodiversity sciences. Ecology, archaeology, agriculture, environmental studies, geology and many others require taxonomy. These disciplines use scientific names, species descriptions and digital and physical specimen data to develop their own research. Insufficient taxonomic knowledge in these disciplines can have heavy consequences on accuracy and relevance.

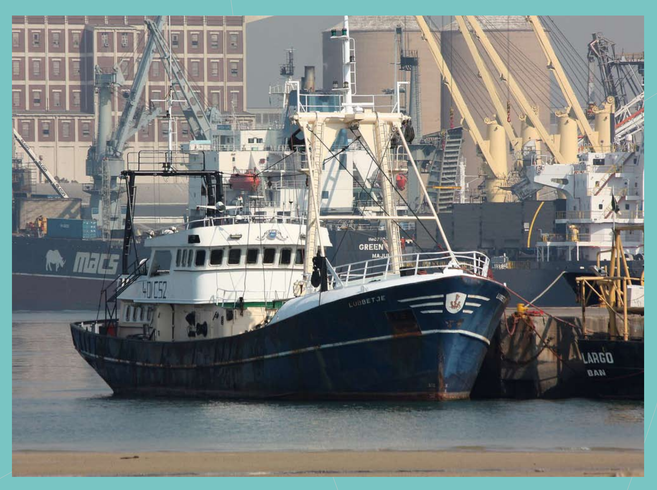


Professional users – taxonomy in applied fields

Taxonomic knowledge and taxonomic expertise are valuable for applied fields in society. EDIT values the user perspective in the development of taxonomic tools and when disseminating taxonomic knowledge. National parks, conservation managers, biodiversity policy makers and NGOs use species occurrence data to monitor environmental changes. Agricultural, mining, and fishery sectors use taxonomic data for the identification of biological control agents for weeds and diseases, for the identification of mine sites and for management of fishery production. Furthermore, it is used for border control and wildlife trade, in landscape and urbane planning, and in public health, etc.

Recreational users – taxonomy for everyone

Everyone uses vernacular names when referring to all the living natural objects that surround us. EDIT supports communication activities on the relevance of taxonomic names. EDIT has created a Public Awareness programme that will synchronise and optimize communication activities among its members. Education and public outreach activities by natural history institutions on species occurrence data aim to raise consciousness among the general public about biodiversity conservation and the wealth of the natural world.



Other stakeholders

EDIT supports liaison of its members with numerous stakeholders in taxonomy. We provide access and insights in recent and future trends in taxonomic related scientific and applied fields. Above all, EDIT wants to inspire administrators and researchers to reach out and engage with those partners that suit their specific expertise. A wide diversity of national and multi-national social partners make taxonomy possible by funding taxonomic research programmes, networks of excellence, natural history collections, innovation firms for research instruments and educational institutions. Finally the development of taxonomic knowledge takes place in a continuously changing national and international policy framework that have to be taken into account by taxonomic institutions and individual taxonomists, a process that EDIT facilitates.

EDIT is part of Europe's contribution to overcoming the Taxonomic Impediment identified by the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Find more information at *http://e-taxonomy.eu*

or contact *duin@mnhn.fr*

Cetaf Consortium Of European Taxonomic Facilities
SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

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