



**CETAF**  
Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities  
MUSEO NACIONAL DE CIENCIAS NATURALES CONSEJO  
SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC)  
C/ José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2  
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Madrid, 28 October 2005

Dr Maurice Leponce  
Conservation Biology Section  
Royal Belgian Institute of natural Sciences  
29 rue Vautier  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

**Re: IBISCA. towards a Census of Tropical Rainforest Life (CTRL)**

Dear Drs. Leponce and Basset

Thank you for informing CETAF (Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities) regarding the international project IBISCA and its developments.

The IBISCA activities relates to the work of the CETAF member institutions (Natural History museums, herbaria, botanical gardens and other collections based institutions) (<http://www.cetaf.org>) on our role and challenge in promoting taxonomic research, biodiversity inventories, database and monitoring, databasing standards, Information technology as well as in dissemination of biodiversity information, among others. CETAF has been successful in launching two projects that have been approved by the European Commission: SYNTHESYS and EDIT. SYNTHESYS (<http://www.synthesys.info>) is a infrastructures based project aimed to provide transnational access to the collections, expertise and equipment of 20 of its current 26 members. EDIT is a EU Network of Excellence in Taxonomy for biodiversity and ecosystem research that is currently under contract negotiation.

Therefore CETAF is pleased to express its support for the IBISCA project and will be willing to offer our collections and facilities as well as to provide expert advise to the operations and further development of IBISCA if required.

Sincerely

Marian Ramos  
Chair of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)  
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