

27 September 2017

Nilson Gabas Jr Director
Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi
Av. Gov Magalhães Barata, 376
São Bráz, Belém - PA, 66040-170,
Brazil

Dear Director Gabas,

The Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) recently learned that your institution may be facing significant and potentially devastating budget cuts. We certainly hope these reports are inaccurate or have been exaggerated given the importance of your research collections and the excellent research record of your institution.

The NSCA is an association based in the United States that works to advance the shared interests of natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. SPNHC is an international organization devoted to the collecting, conservation and management of natural history collections used in biodiversity research. SPNHC takes a leading role in promoting collection issues to the academic community, governments, and the general public because well-curated collections are a critical foundation for scientific research, education and community outreach. Our members include the leading museums, living stock centers, and other groups associated with museum collections in the United States. Like your institution, we are part of the international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities and other institutions that house natural science collections and use them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Our organizations and its members stand ready to consult with natural history museums to help them remain viable, sustainable, and integral research infrastructure during times of negative government and public financial support.

The international links between institutions are strong and increasingly important as we help society and governments address challenges related to food security, emerging zoonotic pathogens and public health, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, invasive pests and other serious issues.

Worldwide, natural history museums are experiencing renewed interest and vitality, so it is disturbing to learn that a world-renowned institution, such as the Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi is seeing such a dramatic loss of financial support. The specimens and associated data held in your collections are irreplaceable and critically important to research into changing

environmental conditions and the natural history of an extraordinarily biologically diverse region of our planet.

On behalf of the Natural Science Collections Alliance and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections, we stand ready to help you make the case for the continued viability of your collections, an extremely valuable component of the natural heritage of Brazil and the international collections network.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Cook, PhD
President, Natural Science Collections Alliance
Curator, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico



Linda S. Ford, PhD
President, Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections
Director, Collections Operations, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University