



*Exploring and documenting diversity in nature*

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CETAF and a call for help from the *Museu Nacional* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Members of CETAF would like to express their profound sadness over the recent fire that devastated Brazil's National Museum in Rio de Janeiro. Our thoughts are with the Museum's staff and the people of Brazil at this tragic time. As one of the largest museums of natural history and anthropology in the Americas, many CETAF members have close contacts with the Museum's staff and the collections themselves. Hundreds of thousands of visitors have benefited from and appreciated the cultural value of this wonderful museum, which has a long and distinguished history of encouraging both science and scholarship. While the full loss of specimens is still being accounted for, news is emerging that some of the museum's precious specimens like Luzia, a 12,000-year-old fossil hominid skull, have at least partially survived. CETAF institutions stand ready to help with recovery efforts, alongside other museums and members of the cultural and academic community.

The museum launched an international call for help (see <http://www.museunacional.ufrj.br/destaques/comoajudar.html>) and CETAF has received a [letter](#), requesting support for the museum from CETAF member institutions.

*News on the R herbarium.* The herbarium of R (with ca. 650 thousand specimens and 8 thousand types) was transferred from the main building of the Museu Nacional into a new building, now known as the Department of Botany, in 2007 and thus was not affected by the recent fire.

The CETAF Executive Committee: Chair: Michelle J. Price (Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland); Vice-Chair: Thierry Bourgoïn (Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France); Treasurer: Erik Smets (Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands); Secretary: Jesús Muñoz (Royal Botanic Garden, Madrid, Spain). Ordinary Members: Jiří Kvaček (National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic); Nikolaj Scharff (Natural History Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark); Vince Smith (Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom).