

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM

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Our ref.: A 15/8

2 March 1992

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Dear Sir

SUBMISSION BY ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

I respectfully submit the following information and annexures for your attention. I should be grateful if you would refer this to the relevant Working Group.

The Institutions comprising our Association include the longest-established cultural, scientific and educational bodies in South Africa. These institutions operate on a national and international basis, and are funded by central government. Member Institutions are listed on the attached page.

We make the following submission:

1. We have the means and the will to contribute to the growth of a national culture and to foster national reconciliation;
2. The collections of natural and cultural history items and documents we hold are an invaluable resource for research in the critical areas of cultural heritage, biodiversity and environmental concerns that relate to the quality of life of the people.
3. We are important instruments of public information and enlightenment and require the means and autonomy to continue in this role;
4. We are a major resource of informal education and our Institutions are available for everyone;
5. We seek to continue in this role, which we consider to be of growing importance in view of the critical situation current in formal education;
6. The National Libraries represented in our Association are essential resources of information and require the levels of State support received hitherto;
7. National status and the continuation of at least the current levels of support are the most effective means of obtaining our objectives and should therefore be maintained.

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I refer you to the attached documentation, and shall be glad to provide you with any further written information you may require; the Association would also appreciate an opportunity of making an oral presentation enlarging on the points made above. You may wish to note that the institutions represented by our Association have been divided inappropriately between two State Departments, namely the Department of National Education and the Department of Education and Culture: House of Assembly, since 1983.

Yours faithfully



DR MA CLUVER

PRESIDENT: ASSOCIATION O. DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
DIRECTOR: SOUTH AFRICAN MUSEUM

ANNEXURE 1

ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS
MEMBERS AS AT 2 MARCH 1992:

South African Museum, Cape Town
Afrikaanse Taalmuseum, Paarl
South African Library, Cape Town
South African Cultural History Museum, Cape Town
National English Literary Museum, Grahamstown
JLB Smith Institute for Ichthyology, Grahamstown
William Humphreys Art Museum, Kimberley
Oorlogsmuseum van die Boererepublieke, Bloemfontein
National Museum, Bloemfontein
Natal Museum, Pietermaritzburg
Voortrekker Museum, Pietermaritzburg
National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria
Transvaal Museum, Pretoria
National Zoological Gardens, Pretoria
State Library, Pretoria
South African National Military History Museum, Johannesburg

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ANNEXURE 2

ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Association is to realize the full potential of our National Collections and expertise. The Association acts as an authoritative mouthpiece and forum to promote the protection, development, maintenance, accessibility and utilization of these irreplaceable collections, which represent South Africa's cultural and natural resources. This it does in order that the knowledge, information and inspiration derived from them are used by, and for the benefit of, all the people of South Africa.

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ANNEXURE 3

ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

We, the Directors of National Collections, subscribe to the following Statement of Intent:

The Association represents national institutions which house and conserve the irreplaceable cultural, natural history and document collections of the nation. These repositories are a unique national resource and contribute to the collective identity of all the people of South Africa.

By the judicious and professional utilization of these assets, the Association strives by means of the advancement and transfer of knowledge to promote better understanding and efficient management of our environment to promote both national and group cultural identity; and to stimulate cross-cultural understanding and so enable people to function optimally within their families, occupations and communities.

The Association supports its members in their striving for professional excellence, quality of service, fiscal responsibility and accountability to the broader community.

All members of the community have equal access to our collections and are welcome to use them.

Since these collections are held in trust for future generations and are of international importance, it is a national responsibility to safeguard them against deterioration and dispersal.

In order to function optimally, our institutions require:-

- the involvement and support of the community;
- flexible and responsive institutional management;
- the allocation of adequate resources by both the State and private sectors.

The functions of the Association are as follows:-

1. It serves the interests of its member institutions;
2. It monitors the needs of society and responds effectively to these;
3. It collects information relevant to the objectives of the Association.

4. It plans and coordinates the effective and appropriate development of the National Collections.
5. It develops the potential of the National Collections as resources of incalculable scientific, cultural and educational value.
6. It formulates policy and provides guidance to its member institutions.
7. It advises State and other appropriate organisations on matters of cultural and scientific concern unique to the institutions it represents.
8. It negotiates on behalf of the National Collections
9. It liaises with other relevant organisations and interest groups.
10. It acts as spokesman for the National Collections.
11. It promotes public awareness of the significance and role of the National Collections.
12. It publicises the interests and concerns of the Association.