[Title and Institution Address of signatory]

Swiss Natural History Collections Network

SCNAT

Haus der Akademien

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Monday, 27 August 2018

**Subject: Letter of Support for the *Swiss Natural History Collections Network (SwissCollNet)***

To the attention of the Swiss Academy of Sciences,

This letter expresses the full support of the *[name of the institution]* for the development and operation of a *Swiss Natural History Collections Network*, an initiative for natural history collections in Switzerland, to be overseen by the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT).

The aims of this initiative will be to develop a nationwide strategy that:

* supports natural history collections and the institutions that house them,
* facilitates the digitisation and imaging of natural history collections, data mobilisation, data interoperability and open access to specimen data,
* creates a national platform for natural history collections for science,
* promotes the scientific, educational and cultural use of natural history collections,
* encourages scientific and technical training as well as innovation opportunities within natural history collections.

The *Swiss Natural History Collections Network* will also work towards the development of a decentralised but nationally interconnected research infrastructure for natural history collections within Switzerland.

My institution is interested in participating in the *Swiss Natural History Collections Network,* and recognizes the importance of this initiative for the future of both natural history collections and science in Switzerland.

Yours sincerely,

*[Signature and Stamp (where applicable) of the signatory]*

*[name and position of the representative]*