



Bund gegen Anpassung

Alliance against Conformity

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Dr. Vincent Price

Duke University President

Office of the President, Duke University

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Durham, NC 27708-0001

Freiburg, 2024-02-22

Dear President Dr. Vincent Price,

We were dismayed to learn that Duke University has decided to close the Duke Herbarium, one of the world's most renowned herbaria of the highest scientific value and the second largest herbarium of any private university in the United States. With its 850,000 specimen and around 2000 species, the herbarium is an invaluable library, both for scientific research and as a genetic database. In the age of the so-called Anthropocene, in which hundreds of animal and plant species are destroyed every day and thus irretrievably wiped out, it is highly irresponsible to abandon such a unique collection to destruction, which its removal within the next 2–3 years to an as yet uncertain location represents.

It is unacceptable that this human heritage, for which your university has taken responsibility and which has been built up over more than one century of devoted work by deserving scholars such as Hugo Blomquist, Henry Oosting or William Culberson, to name but a few, should be wiped out at the stroke of a pen and without any consultation with the professors and curators responsible about possible alternatives.

Duke University is one of the most prestigious and wealthiest private universities in the United States and has played a leading role in the world of science, not only in the botanical sector. This is another reason why we are calling on you to reverse your decision and instead take all necessary steps to raise the required funds (the first million \$ has already been offered to you by a donor!). In a country that spent 2,240 billion US dollars on its military last year, it should not be impossible preserving a world heritage site in the struggle to conserve biodiversity for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Birgit Linz