My name is Maria Helena Santos and I am developing the final work of my Master’s Degree in Conservation and Restoration at NOVA School of Science and Technology - FCT NOVA, in Portugal. This survey is being carried out as part of my thesis, which focuses on the study of the taxidermy collection of **terrestrial mammals with skin and fur** from the Science Museum of the University of Coimbra.

The purpose of this survey is to understand whether other conservators who work with these collections are faced with the same problems that I have encountered, and what solutions they have found to resolve them. For this reason, this questionnaire is especially aimed at **conservators**, although it is open to other professionals who might take care of the collections, if there is no conservator working in the institution.

Taking into account the specific collection I am studying (**taxidermized terrestrial mammals with skin and fur),** all questions about the collections and specimens are specifically regarding these mammals, unless otherwise stated.

This survey will take about 10 minutes.

Any questions, please contact [mhg.santos@campus.fct.unl.pt](mailto:mhg.santos@campus.fct.unl.pt)

**In cases where it is multiple choice, please highlight your answer.**

**1. Where do you work?**

Museum / Other

**1.1. What’s the name of the institution?**

R:

**2. What is your job/position?**

Conservator / Curator / Taxidermist / Other:

**3. Does the institution where you work have a zoology collection?**

Yes / No / I don’t know

**3.1. If the answer was yes, what is the total size of the zoology collection?**

R:

**3.2. Does the institution have a taxidermy mammal collection?**

Yes / No / I don’t know

**3.2.1. If the answer was yes, what is the total size of the taxidermy mammal collection?**

R:

**4. Does the institution have a taxidermist?**

Yes / No

**5. Does the institution have a Conservation and Restauration Department?**

Yes / No / I don’t know

**5.1. If the answer was yes, does the institution have conservators specialized in natural history colections?**

Yes / No / I don’t know

**5.1.1. If the answer was yes, can you provide their names and e-mails for future contact?**

R:

**5.1.2. Where did the conservators do their specific training and specialization in this area?** (Taking advantage of this opportunity, I consider it relevant to make a survey of where this specialization can be done, namely for future professional reasons.)

R:

**5.2. When a specimen needs an intervention, who coordinates that process (the conservator, the taxidermist, the curator, or other)? Who is part of the team? Are they outsourced services or is the institution’s internal team?**

R:

**6. After conducting a condition survey and assessing 620 mounts, some of the most common conditions were superficial dirt, hair loss, skin loss, cracks/splits in the skin, old infestations, broken limbs, accretions and corroded metal support. Based on the collection you work with, which pathologies do you encounter most often?**

Superficial dirt / hair loss / skin loss / cracks or splits in the skin / old infestations / detached skin and or hair / broken limbs / accretions / wet hair / corroded metal support / paint (that doesn’t belong to the specimen) / other:

**7. Does the institution use any specific inventory databases or software for this type of collections?**

No / I don’t know / Yes. Which? R:

**8. Are you aware of any thesaurus with the terms of the pathologies of deterioration of taxidermized mammal collections?**

Yes / No / I don’t know

**8.1. If the answer was yes, you may send the information to the email mhg.santos@campus.fct.unl.pt.**

**9. Within the zoological collections of mammals, do you make any division of the types of collections (e.g. scientific, didactic and exhibition collection)?**

Yes / No / I don’t know / Other:

**9.1. If the answer was yes, when it is necessary to intervene on a specimen, do you take this division into account, or are all specimens treated/intervened in the same way?**

We do take it into account/ We don’t take it into account / I don’t know

**9.1.1. If you take it into account, what differs in the different types of treatment/intervention?**

R:

**9.1.2. What do you take into account before intervening in a specimen with scientific value?**

R:

**10. When it is necessary to intervene in a specimen, do you usually look for similar cases in the literature to base yourself on?**

Yes / No

**10.1. If the answer was yes, do you have any difficulty finding literature on the topic?**

Yes / No / Other:

**11. Do you have a question or comment you would like to leave?**

R:

**Thank you for your attention!**