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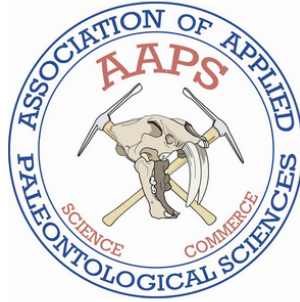
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences (AAPS) has a strong commitment to the ethical practice of both commerce and science. Various sources have brought to the AAPS board's attention that ongoing investigations into illegal fossils being bought, sold, and traded in the United States may involve some members of the association. In extreme cases, this involves material seizures and/or investigations by federal agencies. This negatively impacts not only the livelihood of the dealers accused of wrongdoing but also consumers - among them amateur fossil collectors and museums. While international fossil laws are often vague, hard to find, and contradictory, we strongly advise our membership to only engage in business when the laws governing our fossil resources are clearly stated and known. As has been the case since AAPS' inception, members found to willingly be in violation of our code of ethics and/or national/international laws are subject to immediate removal from the Association.

Please be advised that the AAPS does not have the power to enforce laws regarding fossils, but we do have a code of ethics that explicitly respects the laws of all nations regarding the fossil trade and their cultural patrimony. The AAPS therefore cannot condone in any way the actions of members who choose to ignore our code of ethics and the laws of both foreign and domestic nations. For the edification of our business membership and their consumers, we provide a brief and non-exhaustive list of key areas across the globe where fossils are prohibited to be bought or sold.

- The export of any vertebrate fossils from China (since 1982) and Mongolia (since 1924) is prohibited.
- Most South American countries, including Peru (since 2002), Brazil (since 1942), Chile (since 1991), and Argentina (since 2003) prohibit the export of all fossils.
- Mexico (since 1986) prohibits the export of all fossils.
- Madagascar has always prohibited the export of all vertebrate fossils.
- The United States' Paleontological Resources and Protection Act (PRPA) prohibits the collection of vertebrate fossils on all public and federal land, and prohibits the commercial collecting of any fossil on all public lands.
- Additional information can be found here: <https://www.aaps-journal.org/International-Fossil-Laws.html>

The above list represents the most common countries with laws restricting the export and sale of fossils. We implore members to educate themselves, remain up-to-date on legislation, and conduct due-diligence on all business transactions, for both their own protection and that of their customers. The United States government has various agencies actively working with foreign governments to investigate business operations, confiscate material, and prosecute offenders. Dealers who engage in illicit business transactions do damage to science and the future of our industry. It is imperative at this time that we hold each other accountable and work together to make our field an exemplar of ethical conduct.