

# Museums and conservation awareness

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7<sup>e</sup> Arr.  
**PLACE  
DE  
FONTENOY**  
VILLE DE BRUXELLES - SERVICE DE L'URBANISME



# About ICOM

- ❖ Created in 1946 by and for museum professionals
- ❖ Almost 30,000 museum professionals globally
- ❖ A diplomatic forum of 137 countries responding to the sector's challenges
- ❖ Consultative status with UNESCO
- ❖ 117 National Committees & 31 specialised International Committees
- ❖ A leading force in ethical matters
- ❖ A founding member of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS)
- ❖ A Public Interest Organisation
- ❖ 3 official languages: English, French and Spanish

# ICOM Missions

- ❖ Establishing Standards of Excellence
- ❖ Leading a Diplomatic Forum
- ❖ Developing the professional network
- ❖ Leading a Global Think Tank
- ❖ International Missions





Natural History Museum, London

# Mission



- ❖ Conservation of biological diversity in museums collections & the natural environment
- ❖ Scientific study of natural heritage
- ❖ Education of the wider public through displays, conferences, field trips, etc.
- ❖ Forum for professional interaction
- ❖ Point of contact for like-minded organisations, e.g. zoos and botanic gardens



ICOM-NATHIST 2010 SHANGHAI

国际博协自然史博物馆和收藏委员会2010年上海年会



上海科技馆

Shanghai  
Science & Technology  
Museum



Museums record the passing of species.



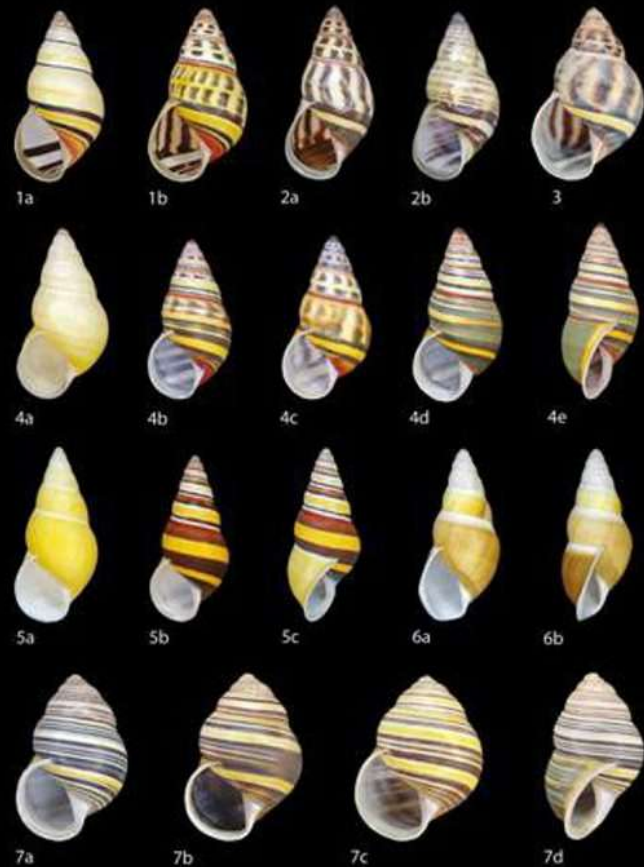
"Martha" the last surviving passenger pigeon, once numbering in the billions, died in 1914. National Museum of Natural History, 1967.







Red Knots forage on horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay USA, part of a ROM migratory shorebird conservation study



# Natural History Museum, London



Iberian Lynx – one of the world's most endangered mammals  
84 left near in the SouthWest of Spain, Donana National Park and to the North in the Sierra Morena

Researchers use DNA to confirm presence of lost lynx population in the *Sistema Central*.

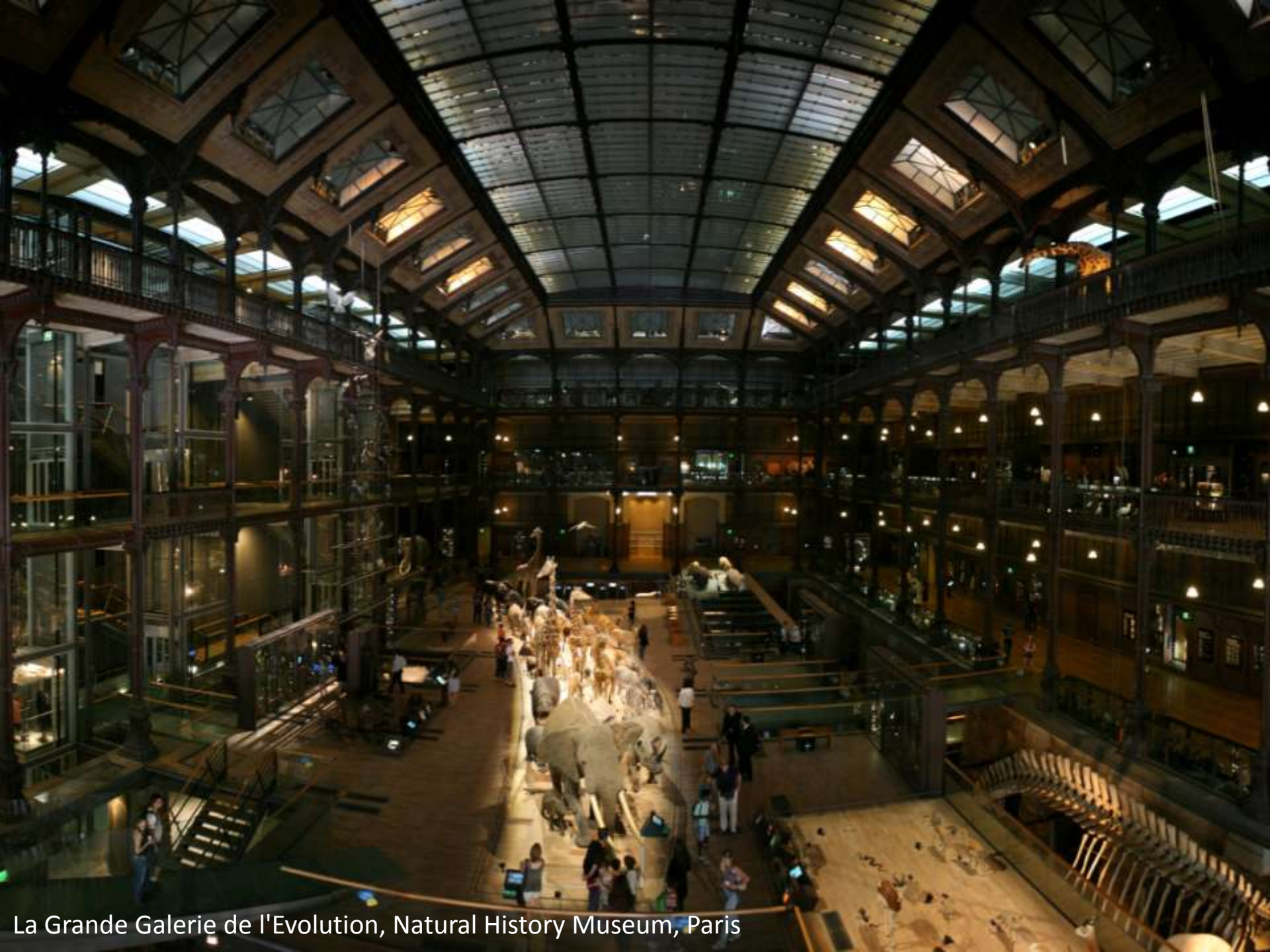
Stopped the construction of a controversial highway across the area.



## Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

- ❖ The STRI Conservation Forum in Panama City focused on conservation policy, research, and education
- ❖ Forest and wildlife protection at Barro Colorado Island National Monument
- ❖ Public education at Culebra Island, Galeta, Barro Colorado Island, and others, hosting tens of thousands of visitors annually
- ❖ Environmental training programmes for decision-makers in Latin America and the Asian tropics
- ❖ A long tradition of natural history research helping raise public empathy





La Grande Galerie de l'Évolution, Natural History Museum, Paris



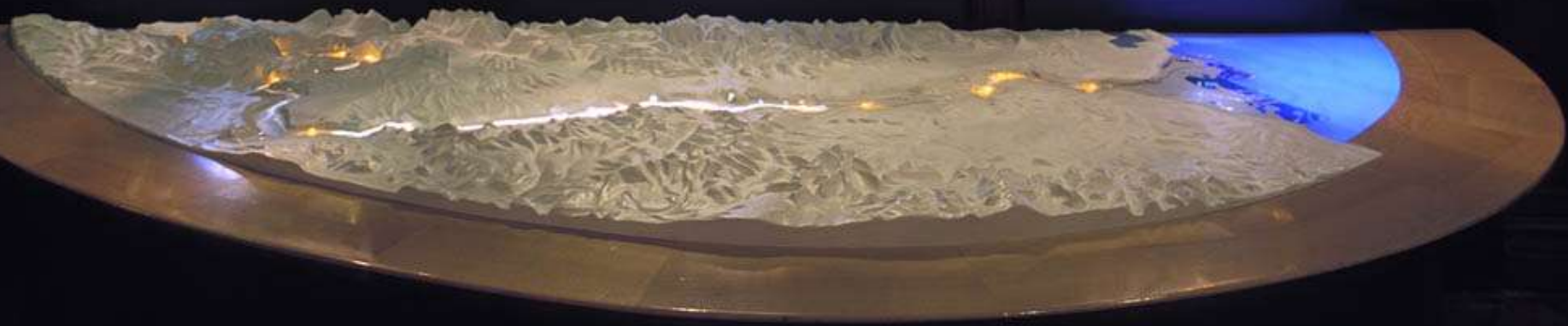
Extinct Great Auk at Whanganui Regional Museum, New Zealand







Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria









Hall of Biodiversity, American Museum of Natural History, New York









Leeds City Museum, UK, endangered species cabinet





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LE NARVAL THE NARWHAL



A model of Manhattan in the *Climate Change* exhibition shows the effect of rising sea levels. American Museum of Natural History, New York

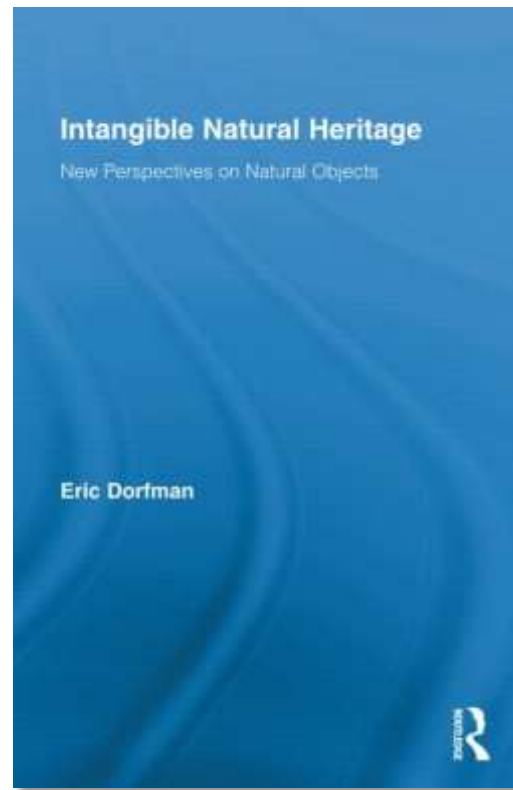


Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian



Australian bush medicine

*Intangible  
Natural  
Heritage: New  
Perspectives  
on Natural  
Objects*



19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese ivory singing cricket cage



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

COP 10, 2010, Nagoya

- ❖ Acknowledges the potential museums, botanic gardens etc. as important nexuses of practical knowledge and local action through which biodiversity can happen.
- ❖ “Task 15” develops guidelines to facilitate repatriation of information, including cultural property, in order to facilitate the recovery of traditional knowledge of biodiversity
- ❖ Acknowledges collecting institutions as stakeholders, with information on knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous communities on conservation and sustainable use.





# Aichi Targets

*Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society*

## Target 1

By 2020, at the latest, people are **aware** of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.



## Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been **prevented** and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.



# Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services





PLATFORM 2022

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON THE  
WISE USE OF NATURE

VIENNA  
STATEMENT

YOUR FAVOURITE  
PLACES

EXHIBITION  
IMAGES

DOWNLOADS  
RESOURCES

CONTACT  
US

Natural history museums are creating a new story of global change.

Every day we bring our visitors face to face with the planet's biggest challenges.

With the resources on this site we will reach out further, going beyond visitors to governments and leaders.



## NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS INITIATIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE



### The Vienna Statement

All natural history museums and allied institutions are invited to add their name to this statement, which calls upon the world's governments to recognise the unique and powerful contribution we can make to a sustainable global future.

[more](#)

### Your Favorite Places: At Risk

If it continues, climate change will profoundly change many places we know and love. This online exhibition invites everyone to contribute a photo of a favorite place and share how it might be affected by climate change.

Explore these visions of beauty in our world and add your own favorite place.

[more](#)

### Our World

This collection of breathtaking images has been collected from museums and environmental agencies throughout the world. Encounter a range of creatures and locales that are seriously threatened by runaway climate change.

Your institution is invited to create an exhibition using these images, which are made available free of charge.

[more](#)

With participation from:





World Association of Zoos  
and Aquariums | **WAZA**  
*United for Conservation®*

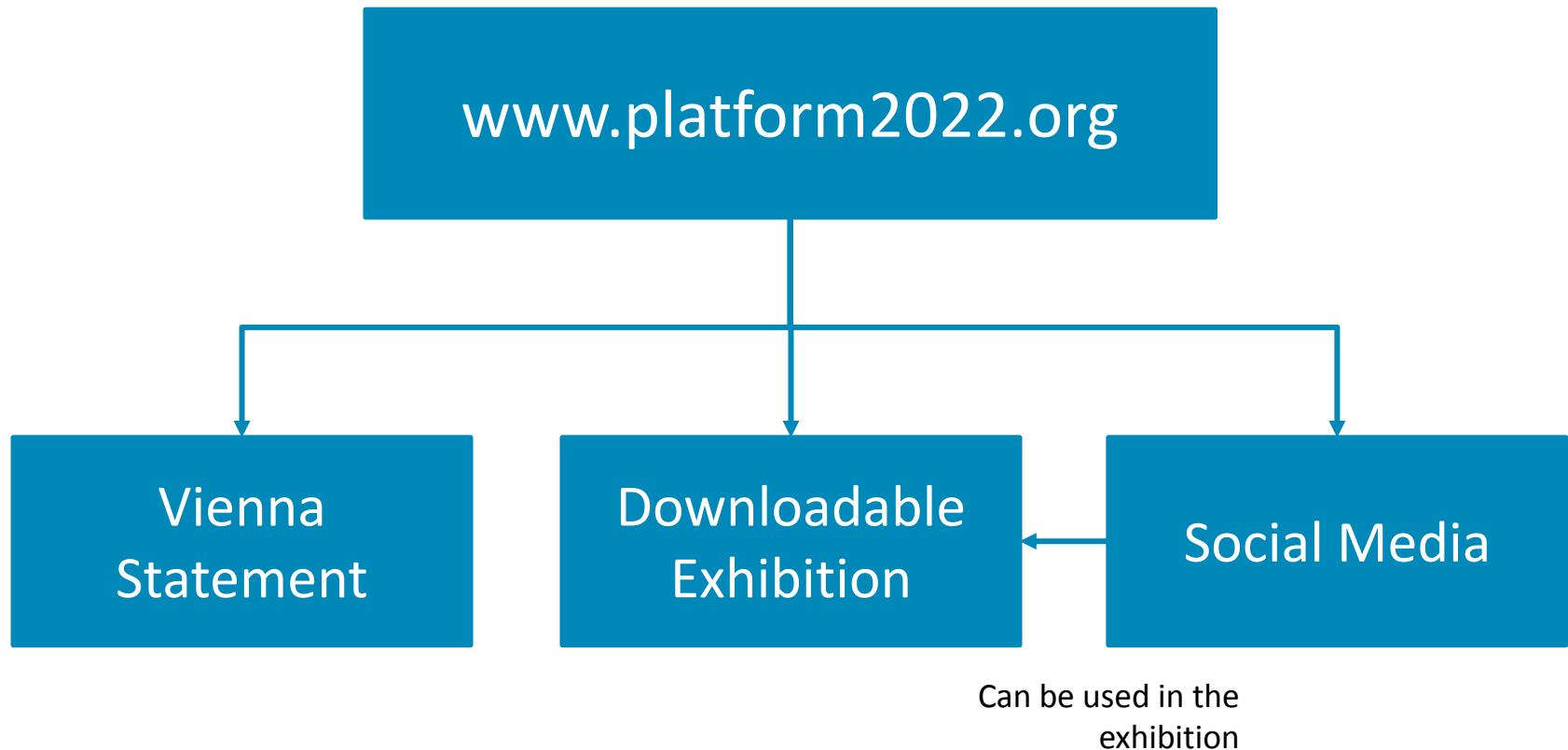


**BGCI**  
*Plants for the Planet*

## **We request from the world's governments:**

- ❖ support the world's natural history collecting institutions in their role of connecting the public to the world's natural environments and fostering responsible resource use
- ❖ ensure that national policies are informed by sound science
- ❖ link national agendas to a common goal of sustainability

Platform 2022 is delivered through a website, as downloadable content for institutions and as a primary source of shared information for the general public.



There are three basic components.







Canadian  
Arctic



Brazilian  
Rainforest



New Zealand  
Mountains



Threatened  
Species



GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON THE  
WISE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES



# Contact for more information about Platform 2022



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