

The International Council of Museums joins the Global Coalition “United for Biodiversity”

On this Earth Day, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) is pleased to announce that it has become an official supporter of the Global Coalition #UnitedforBiodiversity and pledges to engage its network in the common effort to overcome the ecological emergency, with a trio of challenges in the shape of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

We add our voice to more than 200 institutions and 36 organisations that have responded to the [call launched by the European Commission](#). World museums, zoos, aquariums, national parks, research centres, universities and botanic gardens are invited to join forces and speak up ahead of the crucial 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP 15) in China this year.

Ecosystems and biodiversity are the pillars that sustains life on our planet, but nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. More than one million species are at risk of extinction within decades. Without transformative changes, ecological disaster is inevitable.

The conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage is at the heart of ICOM's mission. As the global organisation of museums and museum professionals, we believe that museums can provide an essential platform for scientists, policy makers, and local communities to come together and envision creative strategies for supporting life and restoring the essential bond between people and nature.

We are not just talking about science and natural history museums. These institutions, with their collections, are instrumental in supporting scientific research and helping us to understand the impacts of human activities, including climate change, on our ecosystems. But all museums have a role to play. With their education and outreach programmes, any museum, independently of their subject matter, can be the best ambassador for the planet by informing the public about the dramatic effects of the biodiversity crisis we are going through.

International Museum Day 2021 celebrates 'The Future of Museums': we call on all our 49.000 members worldwide to advocate for a future in which respect for nature and biodiversity is a non-negotiable imperative. We call on all museums to engage their communities in finding solutions to the ecological emergency, and to demand swift and thoughtful action on biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

Alberto Garlandini, ICOM President

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