

Museums and Climate Change

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One of the main obstacles to be overcome in combating the challenges of climate change is the significant gulf between the scientific consensus on the urgency of addressing global warming and the general public's inertia in the face of this consensus. Museums can contribute to bridging this divide.

Museums have an important role to play in disseminating the challenges of climate change, aiming at raising awareness and the creation of processes for social and behavioural change. A team of museums around the world is working to maximise the benefits of museums (as trusted, authoritative, cross-disciplinary platforms, dynamic sites of learning, and boundary-transcending social spaces) to catalyse new, broad-ranging public awareness and inspiring public action.

Objectives:

- **To speak with one voice on the international stage.** There is a need for a concerted international response from the museums sector. The Museums and Climate Change Network, in collaboration with the International Council of Museums aims to develop such as response.
- To encourage museums to be developed as **arenas for dialogue** offering governments, independent bodies, NGOs and other community organisations a unique space to galvanise public interest.
- To present information but also to be perceived as **catalysts for change:** enhancing public awareness and inspiring public action.
- To encourage **wider engagement** in the issues of climate change among *all* museums (not only museums of natural history and science). The effects of climate change impinge on everybody and everything, and they will increasingly require responses at all levels and in every arena.
- To use international networks to establish a **digital resource bank for museums**, containing current research on climate change and documentation of climate-related dissemination projects (exhibitions, publications, on-line resources, education and public programs) undertaken by museums worldwide.