

# Museums and the Doha Work Programme

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# A huge potential

- **c.55,000 museums in the world**, reaching many millions of people each year (<https://en.unesco.org/themes/museums>)
- Climate change **relevant to all museums**, whether they recognize it or not
- There is a **clear alignment** between the six areas of the Doha Work Programme and museums
- Overview of museums' current and potential contribution to climate change education and empowerment submitted to the Talanoa Dialogue in 2018 (<https://unfccc.int/documents/182150>)
- Importance of museums recognized in the Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP24 ([https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24\\_auv\\_L3\\_edu.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_L3_edu.pdf))



# Where do we want to get to?

- Where everyone understands the importance of climate change
- They understand what they can do to play their part
- Want to play their part
- Have the opportunities to play their part
- This list applies to museums and museum workers, as much as it applies to museum visitors. **We need to empower every museum to take climate action and be part of the solution**

# So, where are we now?

- **More and more museums are running exhibitions or events that feature climate change** (<https://mccnetwork.org/exhibitions>)
- Some are **working in networks with policy makers, community groups and other partners** to advance local climate action
- **Museum networks and societies are supporting their members**, e.g. International Council of Museums currently exploring mainstreaming SDGs and climate action, many activities at a national level
- **Conferences, conference sessions (many!) and books** dedicated to museums and climate change

# However

- There is almost no awareness or understanding of the Doha Work Programme across museums or museum networks
- National focal points unlikely to make significant impact in many countries, while many museums want to do 'something', just not sure what
- Activity that supports the DWP has been developed without a connection to that programme, impact not communicated or recognized as part of the DWP, as no mechanism for large-scale sharing
- Museums are at a stage where many are undertaking climate change related activity, but it is unco-ordinated and not reported consistently
- Potential for capacity-building and to build momentum has not been realized

# What would help

- Clear definitions, and desired outcomes of the six areas of the Doha Work Programme that can be shared widely with museums and museum networks (and other sectors), so they can advance activity themselves with some consistency
- Identify/develop clear mechanisms for museums to showcase and report their activities, e.g. international observance days, or templates for museums to share the impact of their activities in support of the DWP, to enhance levels of activity
- Identify/develop clear mechanisms for the very large contribution of non-party stakeholders such as museums to be recognized and reported for DWP in consistent ways, and communicated widely
- Incorporate the developments mentioned above into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, advancing SDG 13 (urgent climate action) through SDG 17 (partnerships), SDG 16 (accountability), SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 11.4 (cultural and natural heritage)

## Networks and information:

- Museums and Climate Change Network (information on exhibitions, events, newsletter) <https://mccnetwork.org/about-us>
- Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice (mainly Canada, 1,034 twitter followers, produces newsletter and regular blog) <https://coalitionofmuseumsforclimatejustice.wordpress.com/>
- We Are Still In (US, 57 signatory institutions) <https://www.wearestillin.com/>
- Climate Outreach (resources and social sciences research advice for effective climate change communication) <https://climateoutreach.org/>

## Training resources for staff:

- Alberta Museums Association training videos for museums <https://icom.museum/en/news/videos-taking-action-on-climate-change/>
- 'We Need to Talk About Climate Change' workshop facilitation pack <https://enduringconnections.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/CLIMATE-CHANGE-FACILITATORS-PACK.pdf>
- Lists of resources (websites, articles, toolkits) <https://coalitionofmuseumsforclimatejustice.wordpress.com/resources/>

## Useful publications

- Cameron, F. R. (2012). Climate change, agencies, and the museum for a complex world. *Museum Management and Curatorship* 27(4): 317–39.
- Cameron, F. R. and B. Neilson (2015). *Climate Change and Museum Futures*. Routledge, London.
- Dorfman, E. (ed.) (2017). *The Future of Natural History Museums*. ICOM/Routledge, London.
- Janes, R. R. and R. Sandell (2019). *Museum Activism*. Routledge, London.
- Leal Fihlo, W. and others (2017-18). *Handbook of Climate Change Communication* (3 vols.). Springer, Switzerland.
- Leal Fihlo, W. and others (2018). *Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change Communication Across Various Audiences*. Springer, Switzerland.
- Newell, J., L. Robbin and K. Wehner (2017). *Curating the Future: Museums, Communities and Climate Change*. Routledge, London.