

About NATHIST

The Committee for Museums and Collections of Natural History (NATHIST) of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) comprises about 400 institutions and individuals across the world. NATHIST supports the collection, preservation, research and interpretation of diverse biological, paleontological and geological collections, the scientific study of the world's natural heritage and natural environments, and the engagement of schools and the broader public in these and related subjects. NATHIST provides a point of contact and a forum for professional interaction for all those who work in nature and science focused museums with a responsibility for, or affinity with, natural history collections as well as those who work in institutions with related aims, including zoological and wildlife parks, botanical gardens, aquaria, nature centers, paleontological and geological sites, etc.

Homepage of ICOM-NATHIST
<http://nathist.icom.museum>



Board 2016-2019

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NATHIST

Natural History
Sciences Naturelles
Ciencias Naturales



International Committee for
Museums and Collections
of Natural History
2018

Join NATHIST

With the natural world facing an intensifying array of anthropogenic pressures, the strength of NATHIST is the breadth and vitality of its membership. NATHIST is therefore eager to increase its membership to ensure the widest possible international representation and to maximize its impacts. NATHIST receives an annual subvention from ICOM which is dependent on the number of its members.

If you are already an ICOM member but not yet affiliated with NATHIST, we invite you to become a NATHIST member. To do so, please email the ICOM Secretariat in Paris (secretariat@icom.museum). If you are not an ICOM member, you need to first join the National Committee of ICOM in your country. In the membership application you can indicate that you would like to become a NATHIST member. If there is no National Committee in your country or the National Committee declines your application, please forward your application directly to

the
Secretariat
General in
Paris.



NATHIST Initiatives & Activities

Meetings NATHIST holds an international annual conference in cooperation with innovative museum host venues focused on topical themes that feature special guest speakers, seminars, training series, workshops, and site visits.

Standards NATHIST members work are dedicated to improving best practice standards. In 2013, NATHIST produced the *ICOM Code of Ethics for Natural History Museums* which has now been translated into eight languages; in 2014, it produced the *Taipei Statement on Museums and Conservation of Biodiversity*; and in 2016, it launched a white paper on *Natural History Museums and Wildlife Trafficking*.

Publications NATHIST has championed a series of important publications, including *Intangible Natural Heritage: New Perspectives on Natural Objects* in 2012 and *The Future of Natural History Museums* in 2017. These spring from our annual conferences and feature the writing of our members.

Working Groups Often as predecessors to publications, several working groups have also been formed to advance the NATHIST goals, including *Ethics*, *Wildlife Trafficking*, *Taxidermy* and, most recently, the *Anthropocene*.

Special Projects

From time to time, NATHIST engages in the creation of an initiative that fosters greater understanding and capacity of the natural history museum field. Our most important current initiative is *PLATFORM 2022* <https://www.platform2022.org/>, a project on natural history museums and sustainable development, managed by the National Taiwan Museum.



News and Opinions Through its website and newsletters, NATHIST disseminates important information to its members, industry personnel and other interested individuals. It is not necessary to be a NATHIST member to receive this free service.

Partnerships NATHIST maintains relationships with international organizations to partner on mutually beneficial initiatives. These include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the Society for Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC).

Student Bursaries NATHIST offers student bursaries to ICOM triennial congresses and, when possible, to its annual conferences.