



## ICOM-CC Working Group Programmes 2011-2014

**Name of Working Group: Natural History Collections**

**Coordinator: Arianna Bernucci**

### **Projects**

- Build on the previous programmes and look specifically at standards, policies and procedures and international agreements that will ensure best practice in the care of natural history collections.
- Build bibliographies on specific subjects relating to the care and maintenance of natural history material and make those lists available to the membership
- Produce a poster that outlines the work of the group in order to generate interest and potential membership for the Working Group.
- Publish annual issues of the ICOM-CC Natural History Collections newsletter
- Engage membership in use of the website and forum for discussions about relevant subjects

### **Specific themes of research /investigations**

#### **A. Material Science:**

- Encourage group members to share information on historic practices in specimen preparation, preservation and conservation via the website forum. Encourage this open dialogue to include scientific analysis, study of archives, technical sources and bibliography.
- Encourage group members to share new techniques and materials currently in use via the website forum.
- Communicate and share information regarding materials that have been Oddy tested.

#### **B. Materials & Remedial Conservation:**

- Increase knowledge and understanding of the materials and techniques used which will ensure best practice in all aspects of specimen preparation, preservation and conservation. Report on any new findings and communicate within the group.

#### **C. Preventive Conservation & General Care:**

- Collaborate and share research supporting the optimum environmental parameters for the care of Natural History Collections with aim of reporting on best practice. This will be achieved through communications with experts in the field and then provided as a link on the WG's website.
- Provide information on disaster planning including emergency plans and collection retrieval as carried out at The Natural History Museum in London. This will be included on the website as a link to a downloadable document.
- Bring together expertise in the field to provide advice on security of sensitive collections (e.g. Rhino horns, bird skins, etc.). This will be achieved through communications with experts in the field and then provided as a link on the WG's website.
- Open discussion regarding pesticide contamination and suggestion of appropriate actions.
- Open discussion regarding current repatriation practices and policies.