

For immediate release

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Horniman Museum and Gardens declares climate emergency

The Horniman Museum and Gardens has today (29 July 2019) declared an ecological and climate emergency, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman, says: 'As the only museum in London in which nature and culture can be viewed together, the Horniman has long been concerned with environmental issues, and the impact of human activity on our world.'

'Declaring an ecological and climate emergency is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce our own environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. The Horniman is not yet as green as it could and should be, and we know there is more that we, as an organisation and as individuals, must do. This is core to our new mission which is that "the Horniman connects us all with global cultures and the natural environment, encouraging us to shape a positive future for the world we all share".'

'The Horniman's main audience is families with young children, and we know that parents, grandparents and carers are worried about the future that these children will inherit. They are also often overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenge we all face in tackling this climate emergency. We aim to provide scientifically accurate information, and engage them in positive actions they can take which will collectively make a significant difference.'

The Horniman's declaration is timed to mark Earth Overshoot Day – the day on which the world's population has used more from nature this year than our planet can renew in a whole year. As part of today's declaration the Horniman is committed to:

- placing ecology and climate issues at the heart of future events and exhibitions programming and the upcoming redevelopment of its natural world and aquarium displays
- introducing more planting schemes in its gardens and nature trail which encourage biodiversity
- encouraging and inspiring visitors and staff to reduce their own pollution and carbon footprint, and increase biodiversity
- reviewing its sustainability action plan, including introducing a green travel plan for staff and visitors
- switching to a green electricity tariff within the year, and investigating greener gas supply options
- a 'green first' approach, as it embarks on a 10-year plan to redevelop its estate to make it fit for future use by a growing audience.

More

The Horniman already creates and hosts exhibitions that champion environmental causes – such as the current *Beat Plastic Pollution* display in the Aquarium (closing 1 August), and artist Claire Morgan's *As I Live and Breathe* installation made from discarded plastic bags. Future exhibitions include *Meltdown: Visualising Climate Change* – a photographic exhibition documenting the impact of climate change on glaciers, the consequences for billions of people, and efforts being made to limit melting – opening at the Horniman on 23 November.

This declaration also follows a number of changes the Horniman has made to green its working practices. Public-facing measures so far include replacing bottled water and plastic take-away packaging, and increasing the number of vegetarian and vegan menu items available in its Café and introducing a new water refill point in the Gardens, one of more than 20 across London provided by #OneLess and the Mayor of London, as part of the London Drinking Fountain Fund. Behind the scenes, the Horniman has, among other measures, introduced an ongoing programme of upgrading to LED lighting, and also composts food waste from both the Café and staff areas for use in its Gardens.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- **Earth Overshoot Day** is hosted and calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international research organization that provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth's ecological limits. overshootday.org
- Find out more about [Sustainability](#) at the Horniman.
- Find out about the Horniman's future development [Framework plans](#).
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – horniman.ac.uk/members.
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access.
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).