

Engaging the Wider Museum Sector

Victoria Harding
South West Museum Development



Bristol
Museums
Galleries
Archives



John Ellerman
Foundation

The South West region

- South West largest English region geographically - over 18%
- South West Tourism is worth 10.6bn to UK economy
- SW is the largest tourism market outside London and South East



Museums in the South West

- Over 210 Museums within the Accreditation Scheme
- 30% of the sector is run by volunteers



The Six Key points...

1. Designed for full engagement
2. Value of NS collections is not determined by 'size'
3. Mindful of the diversity of museums
4. Build on what works
5. Chase up the, as yet, untapped potential for developing an effective network of support
6. Collective advocate for Natural Science collections

1. Requirements for Engagement

- Access to Expertise
- Mindful of the diversity of capacity, context, drivers



2. Value of Natural Science Collections

- No correlation between value and size
- Updating and collating collections data



C.eupompe, Hbn.
S.Brazil.

NAPEQGENES, Bat

I.terra, Hew.
Venezuela to Bolivia.

N.amara
tolosa, Hew.
Mexico to C.America.

South West
Museum
Development
Programme

I.avella
Colombia.

3. Issues faced by the wider museum community

Participation is hampered by range of issues:

- Lack of skills and experience with Natural Science Collections
- Limited access to Natural Science expertise
- Lack of capacity and resources to address the above issues



4. Effective approaches

What has worked so far...

- Collaboration between the Regional Curators and SWMD
- Building on existing practice
- Integrated approaches to training
- Kits and provision of materials to implement practice
- Working together at a local, regional and national level



5. Who or What can help?

- Sustained investment
- Facilitating access to specialist collections expertise
- Nationals, SSNs and Sector Support Organisations



6. Collective recognition of the value of Natural Science Collections

- Advocate for Natural Science collections
- Maintain the foundations of the SWANs Project
- Build on the current momentum



In conclusion...

1. Sector Engagement
2. Equally valued
3. Respectful of Diversity
4. Build on what works
5. Realise untapped potential
6. Collective Advocacy



Contact details

Vic Harding

Programme Manager, South West Museum Development

Victoria.harding@bristol.gov.uk

www.southwestmuseums.org.uk

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