

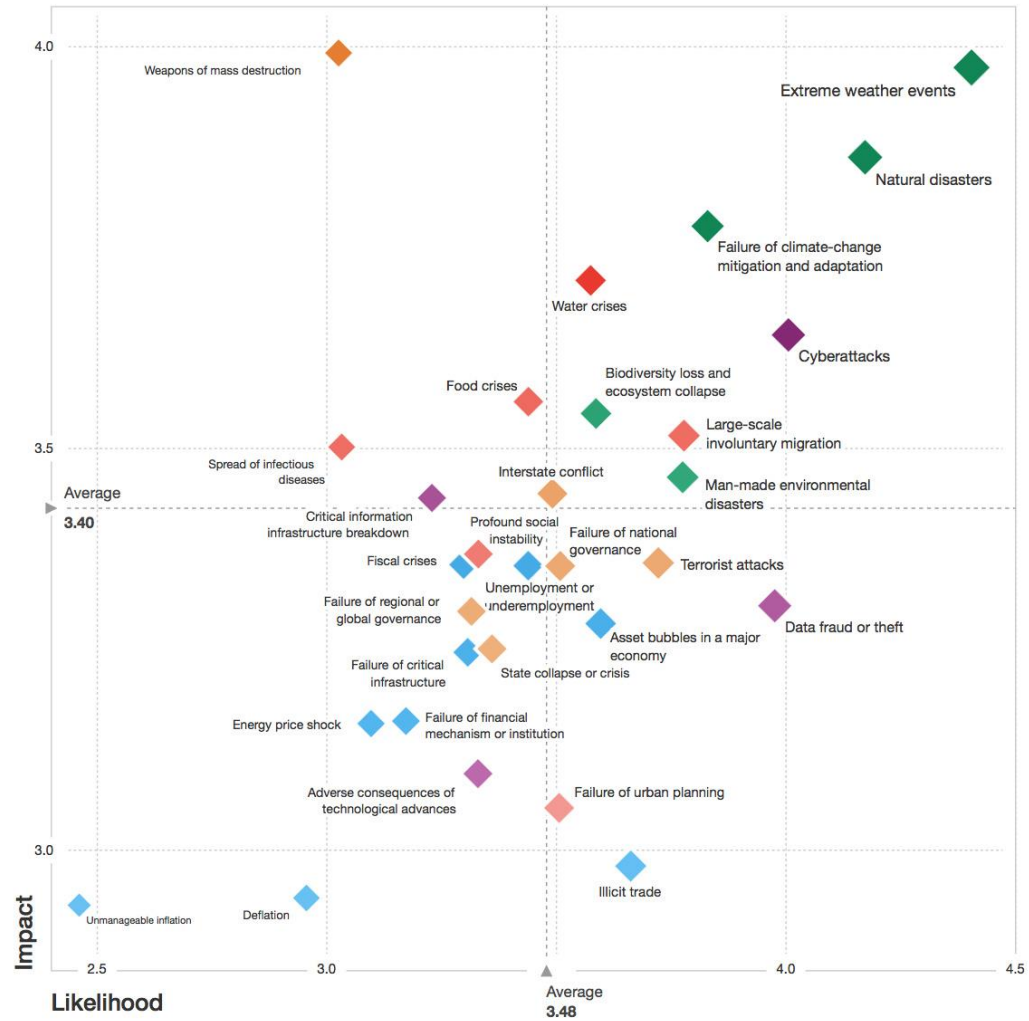
Connecting biological collections with the big picture

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How to do better in hard times

- Not necessarily about doing more
- But doing things with more relevance, and more impact
- Getting the best partners, and creating new opportunities
- Harmonising what we are trying to do, with how we are doing it

What is the impact and likelihood of global risks?



Global risks 2018 (World Economic Forum)

Sustainable Development Goals 2015–30



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



- Convention on Biological Diversity and Aichi Targets
- 25 Year Plan for Nature
- ?what will happen to EU law (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive) post March 2019

Risks

- Collecting could die out
- Research usefulness of museums could diminish
- We need to be [more] honest about the usefulness of collections
- Clinging to taxonomy or biodiversity for their own sake won't cut it
- Connecting 'natural history' and science needs work
- Irrelevance and, ultimately, collapse of collections' contribution to scientific research

Some big research areas

- Impacts of climate change, directly, indirectly and as result of mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Emerging infectious diseases
- Food security
- Invasive species, linked with increasingly global trade
- General degradation of natural environment, and wild populations

Challenges

- Poor connection between museums and research culture/agendas
- Ageing collections
- Specialisation in scientific disciplines requires bespoke collections, if they're needed at all
- Difficulty in making information more available easily
- Reduced staffing and funding
- Museums diversifying, putting additional pressure on budgets and focus
- Weakly defined public and environmental benefits rather abstract against direct financial costs

100 Questions Project

- Funded by British Ecological Society
- To explore perceptions of researchers, policy makers, and curators on the actual and potential usefulness of UK natural sciences collections
- Your help needed
- 100 Questions helps with a strategic approach

- **Ecosystem Function and Services**
- **Climate Change**
- **Technological Change**
- **Protected Areas**
- **Ecosystem Management and Restoration**
- **Terrestrial Ecosystems**
- **Marine Ecosystems**
- **Freshwater Ecosystems**
- **Species Management**
- **Nature Conservation Organizational Systems and Processes**
- **Societal Context and Change**
- **Impacts of Conservation Interventions**