

CMN PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

The purpose of the CMN Pest Management Policy is to document the museum's commitment to protecting its collections from damage by pests and to provide guidance in matters related to pest management in the museum.

1. The CMN is committed to an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to controlling pests.
2. A Pest Management Working Group will be maintained to manage issues related to pest control within CMN.
3. It is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers to be alert and aware of the threat to collections posed by insects and pests.
4. Appropriate training and support will be given to staff and volunteers on matters of insect and pest control.
5. Adequate funding will be allotted for pest management activities.
6. Active monitoring programs will be used to provide information on pest activity levels and locations.
7. Pest control measures will be maintained.
8. Items entering the museum, whether they are CMN specimens or objects on loan, will be subject to quarantine, inspection and (usually) decontamination before being admitted into collection areas.
9. Materials used in collection areas will be chosen with care so as not to contribute to the risk of pest infestation.
10. Remedial action will be taken as and when pest activity poses a significant threat to collections.
11. Chemical treatment will only be used as a last resort. In the event that chemical treatment is required, the least toxic method will be chosen.

Guidelines for implementation of policy

A. Pest Management Working Group

- A.1 The Pest Management Working Group (PMWG) is an official working group of the CMN.
- A.2 The PMWG is composed of representatives from throughout the CMN. Divisions that must be represented include Collections, Research and Facilities. Other divisions that may be represented include Exhibitions and Public Programmes. There must be at least one representative from each building (NHB and VMMB).
- A.3 The PMWG meets at least once per year.
- A.4 The PMWG Chair, who is chosen by the outgoing Chair, must have sufficient knowledge of pest management practice. The position is held for a two-year term. The same person may hold the position for more than one term. This position may be divided between 2 co-chairs.
- A.5 The PMWG is responsible for the development and implementation of the CMN Pest Management Policy and Guidelines

B. Staff Training and Awareness

- B.1 component of orientation sessions
- B.2 reminder of purpose of pest traps at time of trap replacement
- B.3 annual presentation at All Staff Meeting
- B.4 professional training for members of PMWG as available and as required

C. Pest Monitoring

- C.1 traps
- C.2 report forms

D. Control Measures

- D.1 housekeeping practices: janitorial services, especially garbage removal and floor cleaning

- D.2 physical barriers: locations of high risk activities (e.g. live plant and animal care, food stations); door, wall and floor seals (sealing building penetrations); gravel bed; vegetation (eliminate flowering plants and organic mulch close to the building); closed windows; use appropriate exterior lighting such as sodium vapour that is less attractive to insects
- D.3 environment: no high humidity levels; quickly resolve moisture problems and reduce their incidence through good maintenance practices;
- D.4 avoid the use of live or dried plant material in the institution, including staff offices, except in designated areas
- D.5 incoming objects: quarantine (isolating and inspecting/treating all materials including packing materials coming from uncontrolled environments, e.g. those returning from loans, mounts, new acquisitions or those under consideration, exhibition materials); decontamination freezers; inspections for material that should not be frozen (bone, ivory, fossils, minerals)
- D.6 treatment of infested objects: freezing; CO₂ bubble; anoxic treatments; cleaning by conservator or supervised by conservator; chemical treatment only as last resort; use least toxic alternative; document all treatments (who, what, where, when, how)

Appendices

- responsibilities of staff
- procedures followed by IPM coordinator for inspecting and treating incoming objects
- procedures for dealing with findings of insects, birds or rodents

IPM policy should be a key element of the Collections Management policy

- Principle of Integrated Pest Management
- Layered strategy of five stages: avoid, block, detect, respond and recover (CCI Framework for Preventive Conservation)
- Pest ID – Proper identification and knowledge of insect and animal biology are essential for effective pest control. Mistaken pest identity may result in large amounts of time and resources spent controlling the wrong pest.
- Monitoring – clear, accurate and consistent method of tracking pest activity; train to recognize evidence of pest presence; multi-way communication with all museum personnel; monitoring program

- Prevention – appropriate level of housekeeping; regularly scheduled building maintenance; suitable environmental conditions; frequent inspections of high risk areas; quarantine procedures
- Training – use teaching aids such as decimated specimens, real samples of pests, pest residue.
- Trapping program – an integral part of a pest prevention strategy, not an end in itself; enables you to make decisions based on facts, not guesswork; should not be so extensive that it outstrips resources