

Media Release

Basel, 18 November 2020

## **On the State of the Planet**

**From November 20, 2020 to May 30, 2021, the Natural History Museum Basel presents EARTH AT ITS LIMITS, an exhibition designed and produced by the museum itself. The show explores how, as part of the natural environment, humans influence our planet's ecosystems and what the consequences of that are. Presented in a manner that facilitates learning, the attractive presentation illustrates the larger natural context in an easily understandable way, states facts, and corrects misconceptions. A varied program accompanies the exhibition, inviting visitors to consider the complex topics from different perspectives.**

For thousands of years, humans existed without leaving a profound mark on the environment. But meanwhile, our constantly growing demand for space and natural resources is putting pressure on ecosystems around the world. The special exhibition EARTH AT ITS LIMITS explains humanity's role in nature. It addresses the long-term consequences of our actions and how we can shape a different future.

### **An Immersive and Unforgettable Experience**

Already on the way from the foyer to the exhibition, an audio installation ensures that visitors will leave their everyday lives behind and are able to immerse themselves in the topic with all their senses. In room after room, the enticing scenography carries visitors off into the different ecosystems and explains how humans change natural cycles through the overuse of land, oceans, and freshwater as well as by producing pollutants and emissions. Visitors can go on to follow their own thoughts and ease their consciences in the eco-confessional.

### **A Second Life for Materials - in the Exhibition and the AFTER HOURS Bar**

During the planning and realization of the exhibition, careful attention was paid to conserving natural resources. Construction has thus made use of recycled and upcycled materials or ones that were stored long-forgotten in depots. In addition to wood, paint and furniture from the holdings of the Natural History Museum, many elements from past exhibitions at the Museum der Kulturen Basel and the Tinguely Museum now have a new lease on life. EARTH AT ITS LIMITS is conceived as a travelling exhibition and thus ensures that its production is sustainable in use and impact.

The same considerations have led to choosing "Rethink" as the motto for this edition of the museum's very popular bar. Used materials have undergone an upcycling for the bar counter, the lounge furniture, and the decorations and thus give off a new sheen. As in years past, guests can call it a day after work once a month in a unique atmosphere and visit the exhibition in the evening hours.

### **Diverse Accompanying Program and Special Events**

The very wide range of program offerings accompanying the exhibition allow visitors to broaden their knowledge of the subject matter and see it from different perspectives. In addition to public guided tours on Sundays (once a month in English), special tours such as "Im Fokus", "Exkursionen" and "Biene Melliferas Welt" also offer other possibilities to delve more deeply into the subject matter (in German only). In the focus tours, experts from business and research relate current developments and give future predictions in fields such as air, water, mobility, climate, energy and the forest. During excursions, interested visitors accompany scientists into the surrounding neighborhoods and discover how local animals adapt to survive in heavily settled areas in coexistence with man. For the first time the Natural History Museum is also offering a guided tour specifically for children five and older and their families: ventriloquist Petra Hoffmann and her puppet Mellifera the Bee provide a look at the exhibition from an unusual point of view.

### **Program Changes due to COVID-19 Protective Measures**

To make the visitor's experience of the exhibition both pleasant and relaxed, an official opening day event will take place on November 19 instead of the planned evening gala. Interested persons are welcome to visit EARTH AT ITS LIMITS between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. free of charge. The roundtable discussion "Alles könnte anders sein" (in German) between Barbara Bleisch and Harald Welzer will be held in the spring of 2021 instead of on November 27, 2020. The panel discussion "Sind wir noch zu retten?" (in German) is scheduled for March 10, 2021: entrepreneur and publicist Esther Girsberger will chair a discussion with Mathias Binswanger, Katja Gentinetta and Lino Guzzella. Tickets for both events are available at [www.kulturticket.ch](http://www.kulturticket.ch).

### **Teens Contribute**

Our successful program for young people will continue as part of the EARTH AT ITS LIMITS special exhibition. In the KITZ Club, children and teens between 11 and 16 are developing content for Family Sunday on March 14, 2021.

The exhibition EARTH AT ITS LIMITS has been designed and produced by the Natural History Museum Basel. It is based on the concept of the exhibition "Destination Earth" of the Musée de la Nature Valais.

### **Exhibition Dates**

EARTH AT ITS LIMITS

November 20, 2020 – May 30, 2021

### **Opening Day Event**

November 19, 2020, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Free admission

### **Accompanying Program**

All events and information about the accompanying program can be found at [www.erdeamlimit.ch/en](http://www.erdeamlimit.ch/en)

### **Media Images**

Images are available for downloading at [www.nmbs.ch/medien](http://www.nmbs.ch/medien)

### **Additional Information**

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