

For immediate release

Issued 26 February 2026



## **Horniman photo display shows hope for endangered corals**

A new photographic display highlights the connections between the Horniman Museum and Gardens' scientific breakthroughs in coral reproduction, and coral reef restoration in the ocean.

**Project Coral and the Journey of Hope**, opening on 21 March, features photographs from Hope Reef in Indonesia alongside behind-the-scenes images at the Horniman Aquarium. The display highlights some of the people and communities working together and shows how hope can travel from research tanks to living reefs.

The Horniman Aquarium team's Project Coral has been a world-leading coral breeding programme since 2012, pioneering new ways to reproduce corals. These discoveries in the south London museum's basement are now giving reefs a fighting chance, protecting ocean wildlife, and offering hope for the future.

Since 2006, the Mars Coral Reef Restoration Program has been working to help bring coral reefs back to life using techniques such as Reef Stars, hexagonal, sand-coated steel frames that are installed on degraded reefs to provide a stable platform for rapid coral growth. At Hope Reef, Salisi' Besar, Indonesia – the flagship reef restored using this approach – local communities and international scientists have collaborated to create the word 'HOPE' in restored coral, as a powerful message.

The Horniman Aquarium's Dr Jamie Craggs is working with Mars to help bridge the gap between research and restoration. Some of his photos are on show, along with those taken by Ikoz (Muhammad Rizky Madjid), for the Mars Coral Reef Restoration Programme. The opening of the new exhibition will also feature a tactile print of spawning coral, a first for the Horniman. This print was made possible using Canon's elevated print technology, powered by its PRISMAelevate XL software and Arizona printer series, which has been used globally to support museums and galleries in making art more inclusive.

**More**

Dr Jamie Craggs, Principal Aquarium Curator at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, and Senior Marine Science Officer for Mars Sustainable Solutions, says: ‘As well as our landmark breakthrough in coral spawning, this display shows how the Horniman Aquarium team is developing innovative photographic techniques to better understand developing corals. Alongside are photos taken on the other side of the world, of Indonesian communities leading coral restoration programmes, working with Mars to rebuild the reef. I’m lucky to play a role in both and see for myself this journey of hope for the future of corals – now visitors can see it too, here at the Horniman.’

Ikoz (Muhammad Rizky Madjid), Indonesia Marine Program Officer and Photographer for Mars Sustainable Solutions (MSS), says: ‘These photographs tell a story of HOPE beneath the sea. They capture the journey of damaged coral reefs as they slowly recover through the care and collaboration of MSS Team Indonesia, scientists, and local communities. Each small coral fragment planted is a step in this journey – showing that even fragile ecosystems can be given a chance to grow again.’

‘HOPE is not just a word here; it is a shared commitment. These images on display at the Horniman remind us that when people come together with purpose and care, hope can become real – and the sea can begin to heal.’

**Project Coral and the Journey of Hope**, co-developed by the Horniman and Mars Sustainable Solutions, is open daily from 21 March 2026, 10am to 5.30pm, and is free to visit.

### Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

**Images: A selection of images is [available to download](#)**

#### Notes to Editors:

- **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 a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until early 2027 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](#)). 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](http://horniman.ac.uk)
- The Natural History Gallery closed for redevelopment from Monday 4 March 2024 as part of our [Nature + Love](#) project. The gallery will reopen in early 2027.

- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. [horniman.ac.uk/support-us](http://horniman.ac.uk/support-us)
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at [horniman.ac.uk/climate](http://horniman.ac.uk/climate).
- **Mars, Incorporated** is driven by the belief that the world we want tomorrow starts with how we do business today. As a \$50bn+ family-owned business, our diverse and expanding portfolio of leading pet care products and veterinary services support pets all around the world and our quality snacking and food products delight millions of people every day. We produce some of the world's best-loved brands including ROYAL CANIN®, PEDIGREE®, WHISKAS®, CESAR®, DOVE®, EXTRA®, M&M's®, SNICKERS® and BEN'S ORIGINAL™. Our international networks of pet hospitals, including BANFIELD™, BLUEPEARL™, VCA™ and ANICURA™ span preventive, general, specialty, and emergency veterinary care, and our global veterinary diagnostics business ANTECH® offers breakthrough capabilities in pet diagnostics. The Mars Five Principles — Quality, Responsibility, Mutuality, Efficiency and Freedom — inspire our 150,000 Associates to act every day to help create a better world for people, pets and the planet.
- For more information about Mars, please visit [www.mars.com](http://www.mars.com). Join us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).