

CONCEPTION OF A MODEL OF NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF CASABLANCA (MOROCCO)

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Patrimony is "any property, real or movable, belonging to public or private ownership and of historical, artistic, archeological, esthetic, scientific or technical interest."

Morocco's geographical location adds considerable richness to its cultural heritage, particularly through the diversity of its natural elements. Morocco is known as a "geologist's paradise" and has soils that easily reveal its geological history.

Morocco is known throughout the world for the large number of meteorites collected. These meteorites play a fundamental role in improving international scientific research. Many of them are rare and scientifically valuable. Despite this wealth, there is no structure in Morocco to preserve and valorize them. In order to preserve and make this invaluable heritage accessible to the public and to promote research, we need a permanent institution at the service of society and its development. We are talking here about museums and in particular natural history museums. This project is about designing a model for a natural history museum in Casablanca, Morocco. This museum will be a place where the national collections of geological heritage (meteorites, fossils, minerals, rocks), fauna and flora will be preserved and made accessible to the public. The aim is to popularize scientific knowledge for different audiences, children, students, and the general public, using new techniques of museology.

In order to achieve this objective and carry out this project, we carried out documentary research on museum structures around the world (Museum of Natural History) and classified them according to precise criteria (continent, affiliation, type of activity...).

We collected information about museum structures dedicated to geological heritage in Morocco in order to produce a detailed database. We visited these museums and started with an inventory of these structures. A checklist to complete the information during these visits was prepared and filled. Museums visited in Morocco are:

The TAHIRI Museum (ERFOUD).

The Natural History Museum of the Cadi AYYAD University (Marrakech).

The Cultural Center museum of the ATLAS GOLF Marrakech (AGM) (Marrakech).

The Museum of Geology of the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development (Rabat).

On June 30, 2021, ATTARIK FOUNDATION for Meteoritics and Planetary Science and with the help of collaborators and sponsors, we were able to implement our studies and experience in the field of dissemination and popularization of science to create the first temporary exhibition in Morocco, it is the Expo-Museum of the ATTARIK FOUNDATION: "Meteorite Messengers of the Sky". An exhibition in the form of a museum where we find samples of meteorites, models of planets of the solar system, a section dedicated to dinosaurs and one dedicated to space exploration. This exhibition welcomed more than 10 000 visitors. With this success, we have been able to arouse the scientific curiosity of children and the general public, which has led us to extend our exhibition and continue this adventure for another year, until 30 June 2022.

This experience is a first step of building the future potential Natural History Museum of Casablanca. It will benefit to the team as a training as well as a proof that there is an interest of the public on this topic and there is an expertise on this field of museal organization and mediation.