



Extraordinary Stories of Biodiversity

The Dodo and the Calvaria

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When the last Dodo died

The Secret Gardener

The Mauritius Dodo

It wasn't just a clumsy bird destined for extinction, but the "secret gardener" of an entire species of trees.



The Calvaria Major



The Dodo Tree

produced seeds so hard that only the stomach of the Dodo could partially digest them



Indestructible Seeds

Resistant enough to require the bird's digestion to germinate.



1681

The Fatal Year

When the last Dodo died in 1681, the Calvaria trees stopped reproducing.





Three Centuries of Silence

1

1681

Dodo Extinction

2

1700-1900

Old trees endure

3

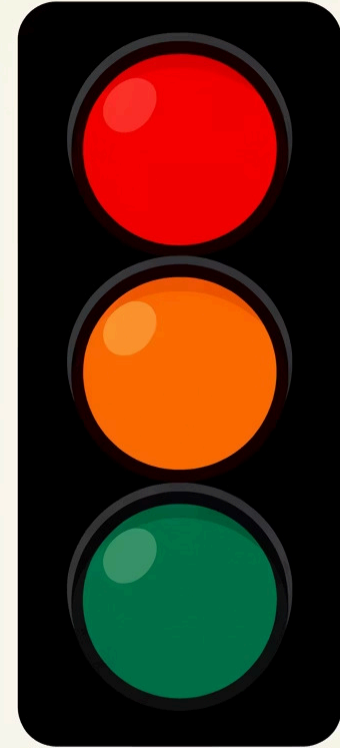
Today

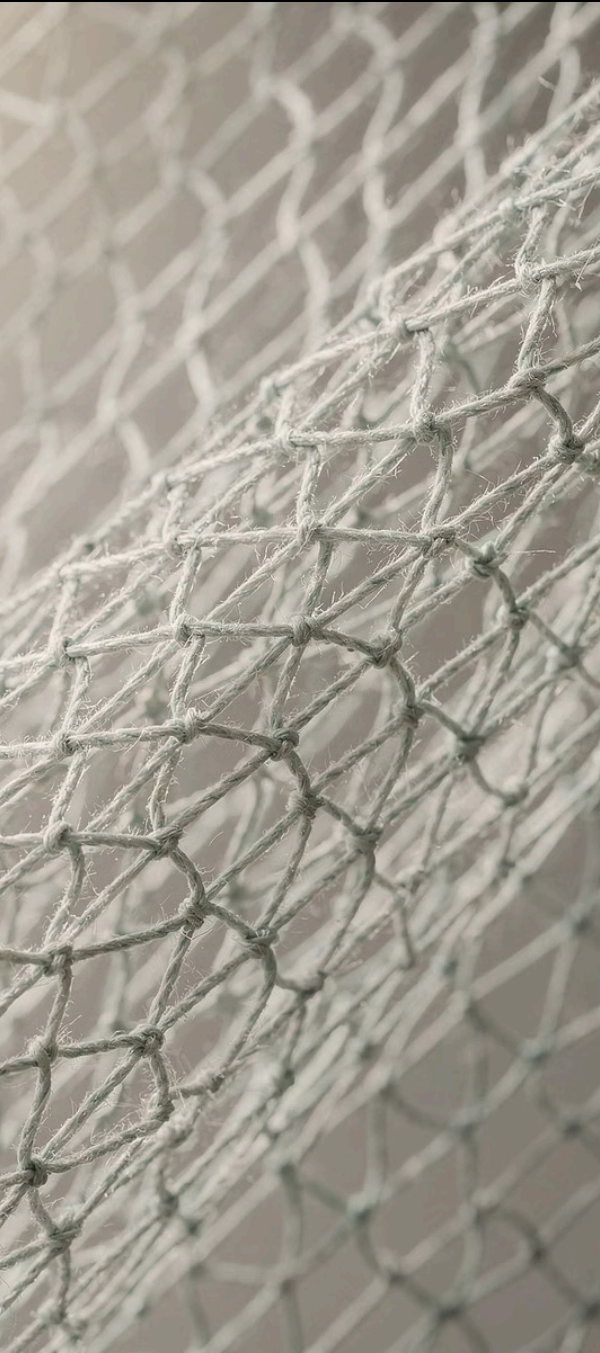
Reintroduction of new individuals

For three centuries, the old trees stood as living monuments to a lost alliance.

Extinction Risk

Today, the Calvaria major has gone
from high extinction risk
to extinction risk





Biodiversity: A Network of Relationships

Biodiversity is not a catalog of species, but a network of interconnected relationships.

Calvaria major:

Mutualism interrupted by the extinction of the Dodo.

Dodo and Giant Tortoises:

Large frugivores and disseminators of diversity, now extinct.

Insects and Geckos:

Unique pollinators for endemic flora, responsible for the fertilization of very rare plants.

Co-evolution:

Close bonds forged over millions of years of isolation, destroyed in a short time by humans.



Network Collapse

Over 95% of native habitat lost

Anthropization:

Urbanization, road networks, and airport infrastructure fragmenting residual habitats.

Tourism Pressure:

Intensive coastal development destroying native coastal ecosystems

Legacy of Past and Present:

First the extinction of frugivores, then the pressure from alien species like macaques, rats, and invasive plant species.

Genetic Isolation:

Populations of rare species remain trapped in "green islands" too small for long-term survival.



Every Thread Counts



Every Extinction

Tears a knot in the net



Every Species Saved

Strengthens the fabric of life

The Operating System of Life

When we protect biodiversity, we are not just protecting animals and plants, but we are protecting the operating system of life itself, us and our future.

