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Extraordinary Stories of Biodiversity

The Dodo and the Calvaria

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When the Last Dodo Died

The Secret Gardener

The Dodo of Mauritius

It was not just a clumsy bird destined for extinction, but the "secret gardener" of an entire tree species.



The Calvaria Major



The Dodo's Plant

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



Indestructible Seeds

Hard enough to require digestion by the bird
in order to germinate.



1681

The Fatal Year

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





Three Centuries of Silence

1

1681

Extinction of the Dodo

2

1700-1900

The old trees endure

3

Today

Reintroduction of new individuals

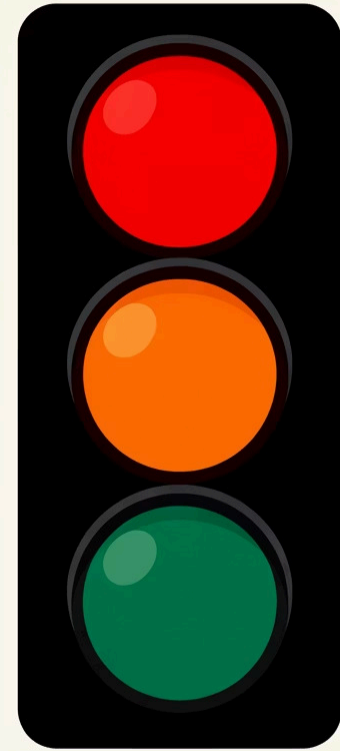
For three centuries the old trees stood as living monuments to a lost alliance.

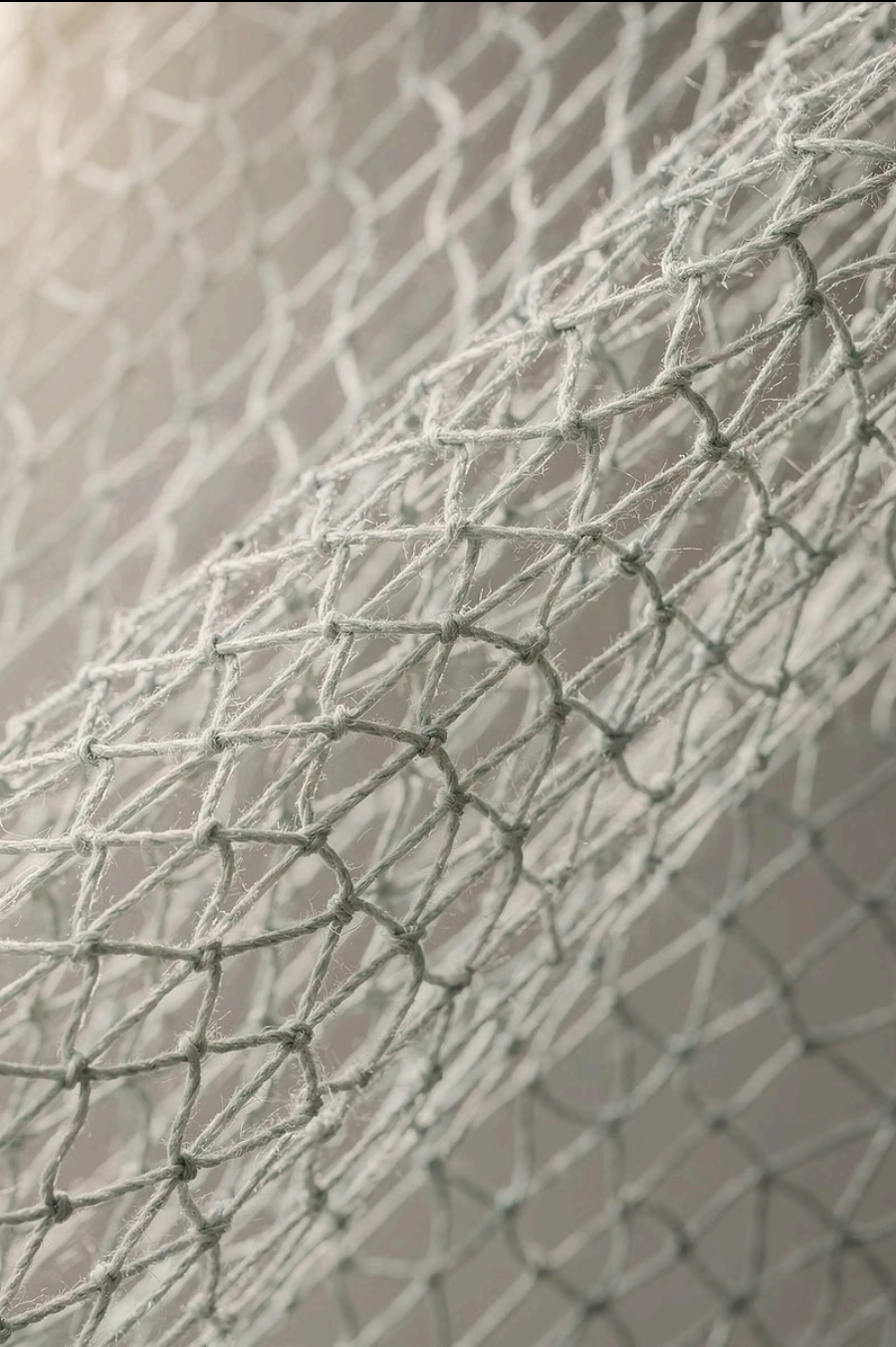
Risk of Extinction

The Calvaria major today has
moved

from high risk of extinction

to risk of extinction





Biodiversity: A Web of Relationships

Biodiversity is not a catalogue of species, but a web of interconnected relationships.

Calvaria major:

Mutualism interrupted by the extinction of the Dodo.

Dodo and Giant Tortoises:

Large frugivores and dispersers of diversity, now extinct.

Insects and Geckos:

Unique pollinators for endemic flora, responsible for fertilising extremely rare plants.

Co-evolution:

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



Breaking the Web

Over 95% of native habitat lost

Anthropisation:

Urbanisation, road networks and airport infrastructure fragmenting remaining habitats.

Tourism Pressure:

Intensive coastal development destroying native coastal ecosystems.

Legacy of past and present:

first the extinction of frugivores, then the pressure of alien species — macaques, rats, and invasive plant species.

Genetic Isolation:

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



Every Thread Counts



Every Extinction

Tears a knot from the web



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, ourselves and our future.

